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BUILDERS ASSOCIATION LAUDS PM'S SPENDING DIRECTIVE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 (Bernama) -- The Master Builders Association Malaysia (MBAM) today lauded Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's directive to all ministries to utilise the bulk of this year's budget by the end of next month.

Its president, Lai Moo Chan, said this would create more job opportunity that would benefit the more than 140 linkages to the construction industry.

"MBAM would like to urge the government to ensure a wider distribution of government agencies' projects to benefit as many contractors as possible including by apportioning such projects into smaller packages for even distribution," he said in a statement, here.

It has been reported that Dr Mahathir issued the directive yesterday to ensure all projects were implemented on time and money allocated spent efficiently.

Lai said: "This directive is indeed timely as most contractors are currently operating at only 40 to 50 per cent of their capacity due to the fact that private sector-initiated projects are not forthcoming due to a surplus in office buildings, shopping complexes, hotel and resort developments".

He said the association also commended Dr Mahathir's statement that payments to contractors should be made promptly.

-- BERNAMA

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