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Abdullah-Monitoring

NEW FORMAT ON MONITORING GOVERNMENT PROJECTS TO ENSURE EFFICIENCY

KUALA LUMPUR, March 25 (Bernama) -- The government will introduce a new form using a new format to ensure development projects implemented for the benefit of the people especially in the rural areas went smoothly and the allocations for them spent fully.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Good Governance chaired by him here today had agreed on the use of the Financial and Physical Project Performance Reporting Format Form.

"It relates to the government's continuous efforts to ensure that all expenditure allocated for government projects could be utilised fully, which means the projects are fully implemented," he told a press conference after the meeting.

He said if the projects were fully implemented, then the funds allocated for them should be fully spent but there were evidence showing a shortfall or quite a high percentage of the funds not being utilised.

"This means that maybe the implementation of the projects approved and the allocation provided for them were not synchronised and the projects might be delayed," he said.

Abdullah said the form, when used and filled up by the implementing bodies of government projects would enable his office, the central agency and the headquarters of the respective ministry to monitor the progress of the projects easily and speedily.

"We will know more accurately about the status of the projects implemented, particularly those relating to infrastructure improvement and rural development projects," he said.

The meeting also focused on efforts to nurture noble values among government officers and enhance their capability to provide better service, ensure commitment and prevent them from indulging in corrupt practices which would cost the country and affect their career.

He said the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) and the Civics Bureau (BTN) would conduct the relevant courses and working papers on the curriculum would be submitted to the committee.

The meeting also studied the report presented by the Auditor General on the performance of government services which were found to be satisfactory although there were several matters that needed attention, he said.

Abdullah said the Public Complaints Bureau also submitted a report to the meeting and it was found that between 50 per cent and 60 per cent of the complaints against government departments were about delays in replying letters, queries and complaints forwarded to them.

"This matter must be attended to and wherever necessary we must use computers to gather and process information from record using programmes which can speed up the work so that our response will be faster," he said.

He cited the use of sophisticated software by the National Registration Department which had reduced the backlog in application from 2,000,000 two years ago to only 190,000 and even this could be eliminated soon.

On the committee itself, Abdullah said it showed the government's determination and concern about the administration so that it would be truly dynamic, efficient, highly productive, and the officers to be trustworthy and capable of implementing projects and programmes that had been agreed upon.

Abdullah said the continued functioning of the committee, chaired by

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad except for its 29th meeting today, was testimony that the committee and the government's determination were long-term.

"As we go along there will be problem cropping up... we might be able to see some weaknesses here and there and these will have to be addressed as quickly as possible... We're happy that we have such a committee with MAMPU and BPR as its secretariat," he said.

MAMPU Director-General Datuk Dr Muhammad Rais Abdul Karim when asked to elaborate on the new format said it was a new mechanism to simplify project monitoring nationwide compared to the previous format where various forms for the same purpose had been used.

He said the use of the new format was one of the moves towards the prime application of electronic administration in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) which was being developed which would coordinate "on-line" all monitoring of government projects.

-- BERNAMA

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