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Projek Jalan Kampung to be completed soon

JOHOR BARU, Sat. - The RM260 million Projek Jalan Kampung, launched in 1996 to provide better accessibility to major rural areas in the State, will be completed by end of the year.

This means that almost all villages will have tarred roads, replacing the present laterite roads.

The State Executive Council approved RM60 million a week ago to fund the remaining 699km of the 2,440km project.

State Public Works and Utilities Committee chairman Datuk Zainalabidin Mohd Zin told the New Sunday Times a total of 47 contractors had been appointed to undertake the remaining work.

"The contractors have good track records in upholding quality and completing work on schedule as seen in the earlier contract given to them to upgrade 1,752km of rural roads.

"They also do the work on their own without appointing sub-contractors who are always the main cause for delay," Zainalabidin said.

The four-year project, which is a major part of Johor's infrastructure development, was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1996.

Due to budget constraints resulting from the economic slowdown, work on the remaining 699km had been held in abeyance since June before the State Treasury approved the project late last month.

Under the project, 1,325 rural roads have been or are being upgraded to tarred roads of Grade C standard with a width ranging from 2.4m to 3.6m.

Zainalabidin said most of the roads which had been identified for upgrading were in the west coast, from Pontian in the south to Muar in the north.

He said there were altogether 4,000km of rural roads but only 2,440km were listed for upgrading due to the high density of village population.

"For economic reasons, we will only upgrade roads which serve at least ten houses in each village.

"The remaining 1,560km will be upgraded at a later stage when the need arises," he added.

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