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Daim-Projects

REVIEW PROCEDURES TO SPEED UP IMPLEMENTATION

SUNGAI PETANI, May 1 (Bernama) -- Procedures, planning and implementation of public projects must be changed to ensure that approved projects are implemented immediately, First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin said today.

He said this was among several proposals being considered by the government following delays in the implementation of public projects which had affected public interest.

"Our effort now is to find the best way to overcome the problem so that all the projects can be implemented immediately," he told reporters after the opening of the Merbok Umno division delegates' meeting by Pahang Menteri Besar Pahang Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, here.

He said the federal government would hold a meeting with officers from the districts and relevant agencies in Kuala Lumpur on Monday to discuss the delays, get their views and find a solution.

Daim, who is also the former Merbok Umno division chairman, said the meeting would also be attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed and officers from agencies involved in the implementation of public projects.

It was hoped that after the meeting, projects that had long been approved could be implemented in two or three months, he said.

Daim said the government had added RM20 billion for the implementation of development projects in the Seventh Malaysia Plan (SMP) Mid-term Review tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the Dewan Rakyat recently.

He said statistics on the first quarter of the SMP showed that only 5.3 per cent of the allocation for the development of public projects had been spent when, according to the planning, at 11 per cent should have been spent.

"A lot of the allocation has yet to be spent whereas the SMK has only 19 more months to go," he said.

He said that in the wake of the current economic downturn the implementation of projects must be speeded up or else activities that could speed up economic recovery would also be stalled.

He said that when the government announced recently that a project must start within two weeks of approval, some people had objected saying that they needed at least two months.

"If we give six months also they cannot implement the project. If they cannot implement in two weeks they can discuss with the government," he said.

Daim said many of the stalled projects were public amenities like roads, schools and hospitals.

-- BERNAMA

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