

Year-end deadline for approved projects

Ministers must make sure they are implemented, says Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues: All ministries have been directed to implement projects that have been approved by the end of the year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said all ministers have been asked to go through the lists of pending projects for their ministries and to also ensure that they are implemented.

The cabinet made this

decision at its meeting last week, Mahathir said. All state governments must lift obstacles and red tape to allow these projects to begin or continue.

He said there is still another 30% of the project allocations that have not been used and this affects the nation's economic growth.

There was an instance where a project approved by the Malaysian Industry Development Authority (Mida) was delayed by a state government.

"This state tried to inject new conditions on the invest-

ment and thus caused a delay. There are cases where investors have withdrawn because of the new conditions," he told a press conference after opening the Kedah Trade Centre here today.

Also present were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Kedah MPs and state assemblymen and also businessmen for Kedah based in the city.

Mahathir said if individual state governments have specific conditions that they want to implement, they should inform Mida in advance so that the authority

in turn can inform investors on the individual state's conditions.

By doing so, the investor would know what to expect instead of learning about the new conditions only when they visit the states, as this can cause problems.

Asked if he was referring to any particular state, Mahathir said this was a general reference and "I am not making an accusation against any state".

He said money that has been allocated for projects in any year should be spent within that year.