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Developers may stop work on projects

SEREMBAN, Fri. - Bumiputera developers involved in the building of 11 community colleges nationwide today claimed that they have not received a single sen of progress payment from the Government to enable them to continue with their respective projects.

Chairman of the community college developers committee Bahari Abdullah said the developers, selected by the Government to undertake the projects, were facing financial difficulties due to failure by the Education and Finance Ministries in making such payments.

Following this, he said all the colleges, earmarked for implementation in various States and costing more than RM200 million, could not be completed on time.

Construction of the educational complexes, based on the "fast track system," was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in an effort to provide additional skill courses for Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia holders and those who failed to obtain their places at local universities.

Work on the complexes started in December and according to plans, the buildings should be ready by next month to cater to the first intake of students expected in July.

"Until today, however, the developers have not received even a single sen of progress payment from the Ministries concerned. We are in a dilemma whether to continue with the projects.

"Since we are running short of funds, we have no choice but to stop the projects temporarily."

Their plight was made known to the Education Ministry on March 19.

On April 12, the Finance Ministry was informed.

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