

04 NOV 2001

Mustapa-Projects

HANDS-ON APPROACHES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Cabinet ministers, menteri besar, elected representatives and government servants at all levels have been directed to adopt hands-on approaches and go down to the ground to observe the progress of projects including rural development and poverty eradication programmes.

National Economic Action Council (NEAC) executive director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad issued the directive at a meeting of the NEAC last Tuesday.

"It's vital that it has to be hands-on, (and) as far as possible, all progress reports of programmes or projects should have photographs to prove the earnestness of those implementing and monitoring them," he said in an interview with Bernama.

Mustapa said it was essential that the distribution of projects be conducted effectively and as such, the selection of targeted recipients and identification of sites should be improved.

"I feel that it is more appropriate for Village Security and Development Committees (JKKKs) to be entrusted with the main responsibility of determining the recipients, the sites and the type of projects to be implemented. This is because the JKKKs know the needs of the people in their jurisdiction better," he said.

Mustapa said that he had received several complaints from the grassroots over the delay of projects in their respective areas but such delays should not occur because planning should have been done much earlier as targeted projects had been listed down and projected for under the country's five-year plan.

"The Prime Minister also takes a serious view of this problem and recently directed ministries and government agencies to carry out planning a year earlier for the implementation of projects...for instance for the construction of schools, the sites should be identified a year earlier," he said.

This, he said, would ensure that the projects were implemented according to schedule without having to wait for the Budget announcement because the government no longer wish to see ministries and agencies waiting until the tabling of the Budget to plan projects.

Referred to the poverty eradication programme which became an issue following the latest Auditor-General's report, Mustapa admitted that the report shows shortcomings in the poverty eradication programme, now known as programme for the people's well-being.

The programme, among others, involves the construction of houses and providing economic assistance, loans, and supplementary food for very poor families.

"But we have to admit that the programme to assist the very poor in Malaysia is the most successful in the world. Even though there are weaknesses, the government has initiated measures from time to time to overcome them," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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