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MAHATHIR-PROJECTS

IDENTIFY SMALL SCALE PROJECTS AND GET THEM GOING, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- The United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) Supreme Council members have been asked to liaise with members of parliament and state assemblymen to identify small-scale projects for immediate implementation, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Supreme Council members have been asked to send letters to them (members of the parliament and state assemblymen) in an effort to help the government to provide the necessary boost to the small-scale projects.

This would be via the RM500 million approved by the Cabinet for development projects involving small scale contractors which partly constitute the RM4.3 billion stimulus package announced on Tuesday.

He said this at a press conference after the organisation's Supreme Council meeting held here today.

The stimulus package was aimed at softening the adverse economic impact arising from the bleak global economic outlook, worsened by terrorist attacks in the United States.

The stimulus package was mainly targeted for the development of infrastructure projects such as schools, community colleges and new universities.

The objective of the new package was to generate economic activities and ensure a fair and wide distribution of benefits to a large segment of the population, including the increased number of Bumiputra contractors.

Under the new package, allocations that would benefit small scale contractors included RM1.0 billion worth of small rural and selected urban development projects and upgrades for kindergarten run by the Community Development Department (Kemas).

A sum of RM300 million would be allocated for the upgrade and maintenance of government buildings, quarters and facilities, particularly schools, police stations and rural infrastructure.

Besides that an additional RM300 million would be for constructing computer laboratories in 2,000 schools.

The government has taken steps to enhance the efficiency of project implementation by speeding up payments to contractors and remove bureaucratic delays.

Weekly meetings were being held between the relevant parties and government authorities to enhance the government's delivery system.

The Prime Minister, who is also the Minister of Finance, would be presenting the fiscal stimulus package to the Cabinet on Oct 19, 2001. He is expected to reveal the undisclosed portion of the package totalling RM1.8 billion.

To date, the government has announced intended allocations under the stimulus package worth RM2.5 billion. -- BERNAMA

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