

19 OCT 2001

Tajol-Allocation

PERAK CONFIDENT OF SPENDING RM51.9 MILLION BY DECEMBER

IPOH, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- The Perak Government is confident that it can finish spending RM51.9 million, being its share of the Federal economic stimulus package before the end of this year even though only 3.6 per cent of it had been used so far.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said 1,363 projects had been approved under the stimulus package but only 43 had been completed.

He was confident that the other projects would be completed soon as they involved minor items such as building halls and improvements to roads where the allocation involved was just RM100,000 or less.

"Projects such as rural roads can be completed in two months. The problem arises when we undertake them all simultaneously resulting in lack of building materials and machines," he said after chairing the State Development Meeting here.

Tajol said Perak received RM49 million from the RM4.3 billion economic stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last month while the balance of RM2.9 million was from the Federal allocations obtained by Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries from Perak.

He said work on some projects had still not started because suitable sites for them were still being studied.

Tajol Rosli said he had directed the State Secretary and the State Development Director to monitor the development of all projects to ensure they were being implemented smoothly and completed before the end of this year.

He also said Perak would appeal to the Federal Government to review the decision of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) not to include the Alor Pongsu tiered interchange in the Eighth Malaysia Plan.

"We want the EPU not to just look at the volume of traffic, rather the impact of the project on the development of North Perak comprising Semanggol, Selama, Larut and the Beriah Valley," he said.

He said the RM30 million project would enable the Beriah Valley to emerge as a new industrial growth centre with the availability of cheaper land than elsewhere.

Even though under the agreement, Plus (Projek Lebuhraya Utara-Selatan) would build the tiered interchange in 2011, Tajol Rosli said it was too late and urged the Federal Government to take over its construction.

-- BERNAMA

AR AR AAM