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Abdullah-Development

RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO BE STEPPED UP

KENINGAU, Sabah, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has said the government will intensify rural development programmes to create a balance in the progress between rural and urban areas.

The Government would spend more than RM5 billion on rural development programmes as announced by Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his Budget for next year, he said.

" We not only want to see development in cities like Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur but also in the rural areas. We want the petty traders also to benefit from development," he said when opening the Keningau Tamu Site here.

Abdullah said the government would ensure that facilities such as telephone, post office, water and electricity were also available to the rural people.

" This is what the government will do to create balanced development," he said.

Abdullah said the implementation of the various rural projects was important in helping to raise the living standards of the rural folks.

He urged Barisan Nasional elected representatives to ensure the success of the various rural development projects.

"We want all programmes to be undertaken speedily and fully and ensure that targets are met," he said.

On the Tamu project, Abdullah said the Federal Government would provide an additional RM2 million for the project in addition to the RM3 million allocated earlier for it.

As the response to the tamu was very encourageing, the government had decided to increase the allocation to extend the tamu project site, he added.

Work on the Keningau Tamu Site started in June last year and completed in mid March this year.

The site has 105 permanent stalls to serve the needs of 355 petty traders.

The project is a joint venture between the Federal Entrepreneur Development Ministry and the Sabah Economic Development Corporation (Sedco).

It was implemented jointly by Sedcovest Holdings Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Sedco and the Keningau Municipal Council.

The Deputy Prime Minister later opened the building of the Yayasan Pembangunan dan Pedalaman Sabah (YPPS) here.

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