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Musa-Budget

SABAH 2002 BUDGET FOCUSES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

KOTA KINABALU, Oct 21 (Bernama) - The Sabah state budget for 2002, which will be tabled on Nov 1, is expected to give emphasis on efforts to develop the rural areas.

"We will try to present a fair and balanced budget for the good of everyone especially the rakyat in the rural area," said State Finance Minister Datuk Musa Aman.

He said there was a need to give more emphasis to the rural areas as they were still lagging far behind in terms of development.

Musa said this when asked on the focus of the 2002 state budget after officiating the Sabah Wanita Umno Al-Quran Reciters assembly at Wisma Muis, near here today.

When asked whether the state budget this time would be a deficit budget, he said: "Just wait for the details later".

Musa said various factors would be taken into account in tabling the state budget including the 2002 National Budget which was presented by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in parliament on Friday.

"Like the national budget, we too want to endeavour to spur the state economy, thus generating development in Sabah," he said.

On the payment of bonus and salary increase for state civil servants as enjoyed by their counterparts at the federal level, he said the state government had yet to decide on it.

He said he would discuss the matter with Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat before bringing it up to the state cabinet soonest possible.

When presenting the 2002 National Budget, Dr Mahathir announced a half month's bonus or a minimum of RM1,000 to be paid this month and next month, as well as a 10 per cent rise in salary for federal civil servants next year.

-- BERNAMA

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