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Assembly-Sarawak (Projects)

SARAWAK TO IMPLEMENT 3,196 PROJECTS UNDER SPECIAL PROJECTS PACKAGE

KUCHING, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- Sarawak, which received the largest allocation of RM100 million under the Special Projects Pre-Emptive Package, is expected to implement 3,196 minor rural projects within a short time-frame.

Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr George Chan said today that it was the Residents and District Officers' priority to identify and see these projects were being timely implemented.

"Breakdown details of the projects, which will be captured in a monitoring system specially developed to monitor the implementation, is currently still being processed and compiled," he told the Legislative Assembly here.

Dr Chan, who is state Finance and Public Utilities Minister, was replying to a question by Dr Abdul Rahman Junaidi (BN-Pantai Damai) on steps being taken to cushion the impact of an imminent global economic slowdown.

Under the package, he said, the federal government had approved a total sum of RM500 million for the implementation of minor projects in the country.

However, the state government had not been informed on the allocation for Sarawak under the additional Stimulus Package of RM4.3 billion announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad last month, Dr Chan said.

Dr Mahathir announced that the provisions included RM150 million for the training of retrenched workers, RM300 million for upgrading and maintenance work for government buildings, quarters and facilities besides RM300 million for the construction of computer labs in 2,000 schools.

To another question, by Sylvester Entri (BN-Marudi) on the problem of water supply to rural areas, Dr Chan said the federal government had approved RM133 million for such projects under the Eighth Malaysia Plan.

He said the state government had also allocated about RM170 million for extension of water supply to rural areas including construction of reservoirs and booster stations under the same period.

The government faced problems with the development and implementation of water supply to rural villages, longhouses and schools which are scattered in the interior or along the coastal regions, he said.

He said in many cases the programme could only be implemented in stages due to the high cost involved.

-- BERNAMA

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