

04 JAN 2002

Khaled-Housing

PWD HAS COMPLETED 90 PERCENT OF TEACHERS HOUSING PROJECT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- The Public Works Department (PWD) has completed about 90 percent of the 10,376 units of teachers quarters it was asked to build by the Education Ministry.

"Actually, the PWD has completed 90 percent of the teachers housing (project) it was assigned by the Education Ministry," Deputy Works Minister Mohd Khaled Nordin told reporters at the ministry's Aidilfitri gathering here today.

He said this when asked to comment on newspaper reports today which claimed that the PWD had completed only 51.3 percent or 5,327 units of teachers quarters it was supposed to build as at last December.

He conceded that the teachers housing project was behind schedule but it was because the PWD received the work directive late.

Asked on reports that a majority of the 50,000 lorries for hire were avoiding the North-South Expressway because of the 10 percent toll hike from Jan 1 this year, he said the toll increase had been approved and the government would not exempt them from paying the new rates.

He said they were free to use trunk roads if they were not willing to pay toll for a smoother ride.

Pan Malaysia Hired Lorry Owners Association president Er Swee See said yesterday that lorries would only use the highway if consignors were willing to bear the toll charges.

Er urged the ministry and the highway concessionaire to consider exempting lorry operators from the toll increase.

Asked if the transportation of goods would be adversely affected if lorry operators decided to stay away from the highway, he said this should not be the case because the government regularly upgraded other roads.

He also said the ministry had spent the entire RM300 million allocated to it under the RM4.3 billion economic stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last year.

The allocation was used for building industrial roads, upgrading federal buildings and government quarters and replacing machinery, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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