

26 SEP 2002

Koh-Allocation/BM

PENANG RECEIVES ANOTHER RM47 MILLION FOR SMALL PROJECTS

NIBONG TEBAL, Sept 26 (Bernama) -- Penang has been given an additional RM47 million this year to implement small projects to stimulate the economy.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today that this was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Finance Minister, when he tabled the 2003 Budget last Friday.

The urban parliamentary constituencies would receive RM3 million each while the rural ones would receive RM5 million each. Penang has 11 parliamentary constituencies.

The projects would cost not more than RM200,000 each, he told a media conference after chairing the State Development Council meeting in Jawi, near here.

Dr Koh said that since January this year, the state had spent RM27.1 million to implement 1,055 projects under the same programme while RM53 million was spent on over 1,000 projects last year.

Later, when opening the Drainage and Irrigation Department's (DID) pumphouse in Teluk Ipil, near here, he called on the people not to turn the rivers in the state into supermarkets for secondhand goods.

He said that some Penangites had the bad habit of throwing unwanted things like television sets, beds, cars and all kinds of things into the rivers.

"Just as the government has the responsibility to clean up the rivers, the businessmen and individuals also have the responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of the rivers," he said.

The government could spend millions of ringgit on cleaning up the rivers but the people must cooperate by not dumping things that could pollute the rivers, he said, adding that generally, the rivers in the state were not in satisfactory condition.

Deputy DID Director-General Ahmad Fuad Embi said the department had allocated RM78.8 million under the Eighth Malaysia Plan for mitigation projects in the state.

He said that the RM10 million Nibong Tebal flood mitigation project which was completed last June could solve the perennial flood problem in the area.

-- BERNAMA

AHM JK