

20 SEP 2002

Budget-Security (Reaction)

SECURITY ALLOCATION SHOWS COMMITMENT TO ENSURING STABILITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- The allocation of RM3.06 billion for development projects in the security sector, representing 8.3 percent of the development expenditure in the 2003 Budget, reflects the government's commitment in ensuring security and stability of the country, from both internal and external threats.

According to Malaysian Strategic Research Centre (MSRC) executive director Abdul Razak Baginda, the allocation also took into consideration the global threat of terrorism following the Sept 11 attacks on the United States.

"This is in tandem with regional and global development where security is an important element now. And that means the government is continuously committed and consistent," he told Bernama when asked to comment on the allocation announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when tabling the 2003 Budget at the Dewan Rakyat here today.

The security sector comprises the police force and the armed forces.

Abdul Razak said the allocation meant that the armed forces would be able to continue with its procurement plans next year as part and parcel of the ongoing modernisation.

-- BERNAMA

RV ZS YBY