

11 JUN 2003

Melaka-Projects

MELAKA FACES NO PROBLEM TO IMPLEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

MELAKA, June 11 (Bernama) -- Melaka does not face problems in implementing infrastructure projects in the next two years as the government has approved the allocations earlier, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said today.

He said beautification of the Melaka River, expansion of the Batu Berendam Airport, taxi and bus terminals at the city centre are among projects that have received the Federal Government's approval.

"For the next one or two years, we'll not have any problems as funds for several big projects have been approved by the Federal Government," he told reporters after chairing the weekly state executive council meeting.

He said this when asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday, calling on state governments not to ask for big allocations under the 2004 Budget as such requests could not be met.

In view of Dr Mahathir's call, the implementation of several infrastructure projects would be postponed, he said.

Among the deferred projects are the construction of the Tengkeras-Sungai Udang coastal road and a dual lane between Jalan Ayer Keroh and Batang Melaka in Selandar.

"We'll implement the projects once the Federal Government's financial situation improves," he said.

Mohd Ali also said a forest reserve in Bukit Sedanan, Selandar would be converted into a safari park.

"We are studying the animal park concept of Zimbabwe as yet another tourist attraction in the state," said Mohd Ali, who returned from a working visit to the African country last week.

He also said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would open the 2003 InfoSoc Malaysia Conference and Exhibition from June 21 to 25.

Some 500 participants, including 100 from overseas, would attend the four-day conference organised by the National Information Technology Council.

The conference would, among others, help enhance information technology and communications skills in youths.

-- BERNAMA

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