

Shafie: GTP gave 1.8mil rural folk roads
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The Government Transformation Programme (GTP) launched by Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak in April 2009 resulted in significant progress for the rural and regional development ministry, in providing an ever-improving standard of rural basic infrastructure, said minister Mohd Shafie Apdal.

Under the Rural Basic Infrastructure (RBI) National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) initiatives, about 1.8 million people in rural areas enjoyed 783.1km of rural roads built or upgraded, exceeding the actual target of only 751.9km.

The implementation of Programme Jalan Luar Bandar has enhanced the road connectivity of over 12,000 kampungs across the country, said Mohd Shafie, in the 2010 GTP Annual Report issued by the Prime Minister's Department.

"In Kapit, Sarawak, at least four longhouses will now be connected with the completion of 10.3km of new roads," he said.

With these new roads, residents could now make full use of vehicles and participate in various social and economic activities like selling their produce, with better access for children to school.

Besides that, the ministry had also exceeded its target to build and restore 16,962 houses for the rural poor as compared to the actual target of only 16,626 units.

"Having a roof above their head means the world to many residents in Kampung Pulau Seduku in Sri Aman, Sarawak. With the new settlement under the House Aid Programme, about 85,000 people now have access to various economic activities, including easy access to the market as the local economic engine," he said.

Furthermore, a total of 27,266 rural houses were provided with round-the-clock electricity supply for the first time, which again exceeded the actual target of 25,312 unit of households.

Mohd Shafie said the introduction of the Rural Electrification Programme had done much to improve the lives of the residents of Kampung Chupak in Mambong, Sarawak and Kampung Orang Asli Air Tawas.

The Orang Asli communities who previously relied on rivers and rain for their water supply can now enjoy access to clean, uninterrupted tap water.

About 176,000 occupants of 36,273 rural houses enjoy clean water supply although the target set for last year was actually 70,181 units.

Therefore, good cooperation amongst all parties is needed to ensure timely delivery of results and avoid delays in the commencement of subsequent contract activities.

Mohd Shafie said the ministry intended to upgrade and build another 905km of roads, supply water to 58,087 household units, give electricity supply to 32,242 household units and build

and restore 9,146 houses by end of this year.

- Bernama

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