

**PKR asks state govt to get priorities right**  
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KUCHING - Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) has called the Barisan Nasional (BN) state government to get their priorities right on public spending, pointing out the lack of better health care facilities in Lawas when millions of ringgit will be spent instead to 'beautify' the town square.

PKR Liaison Chief Baru Bian said the Second Minister of Planning and Resource Management Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hassan has announced on Monday that Lawas is to get a RM11 million ringgit facelift which will include beautification of the town square and build ongoing infrastructure.

Saying the RM11 million could be put to better use, he questioned Awang Tengah's priority of beautifying the town when the Lawas hospital which catered for 50,000 people is in dire need of a bigger one.

Baru Bian said a new hospital for Lawas was announced and approved several years ago under the 8th Malaysia Plan.

The 10th Malaysia Plan was already announced earlier June this year, but there is still no sign of hospital for the Lawas people.

Baru Bian went to Lawas and learned that the Federal Government had to wait for the state to allocate a venue for the proposed new hospital.

"However, the land offered was not suitable and it was swampy. As a result, the Federal Government is now forced to build the new hospital on the present site where the old hospital stands," he said.

According to Baru Bian, shoplots were identified for the continuous operation but another problem is yet to be solved as there is no mortuary.

The shoplot owners had agreed to rent their space to the hospital but refused to allow a mortuary to be built there. He said even though a separate building was to be constructed near to the shoplots for a morgue, there were still strong objection from the Chinese businessmen.

sarawak\_lawas\_hospital  
The present Lawas Hospital

"The mortuary issue is causing the standstill of the hospital. The state government should look into the problem and find an alternative instead of trying to beautify the town. Set your priorities right," said Baru Bian.

"We welcome Awang Tengah's proposals but we question his timing and priorities. The Town Square first phase would cost RM7 million and the Waterfront a further RM4 million. Priority will be given to the RM35 million Seri Malaysia hotel situated on the Waterfront. Attached to the hotel will be a shopping arcade," he added.

He pointed out that the basic amenities in health care (hospitals and clinics), education (schools) and infrastructure (roads) should be upgraded.

"Take the Lawas to Ba'Kelalan Road for example. What we have been promised is a road connecting Lawas to Ba'Kelalan. And recently, a project reportedly to cost over a hundred million was completed, linking Lawas to Ba'Kelalan.

"Actually, I have seen a letter that states it is only a 'jalan sementara'. And this jalan sementara is actually a logging road that was first constructed by Samling! So millions were spent on an already existing dirt road?" he questioned.

He said they do welcome roads but at the same time, want to make sure that land owners whose land were used for road would be fairly compensated. - MM

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