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RURAL BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

# Paving the road to good life

KUALA LUMPUR: Rural communities in the country will see significant changes in their lives under the proposed enhancements in the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) Roadmap.

Initial cost estimates of up to RM18 billion will be needed over the next three years to achieve the desired outcome of improving the livelihood of the country's rural communities. Currently, 35 per cent of Malaysians live in rural areas.

Under the GTP, the government will oversee the building or upgrading of about 7,000km of Federal and state roads, where about 70 per cent of it will be paved.

As a result of the programme, an estimated 800,000 people will have access to travel on roads.

In Peninsular Malaysia, where nearly all the population has access to roads, the focus will be on paving gravel roads.

When the programme is completed by 2012, almost all the population in Peninsular

Malaysia will live within 5km from a paved road.

All the roads to be built and upgraded across the country have already been identified in detail — point of origin and destination, total length, width, material to be used, implementing agencies, communities connected — to ensure that all implementation considerations and challenges have been taken into account, and to optimise for on-time and in-budget delivery.

Other projects for rural communities include:

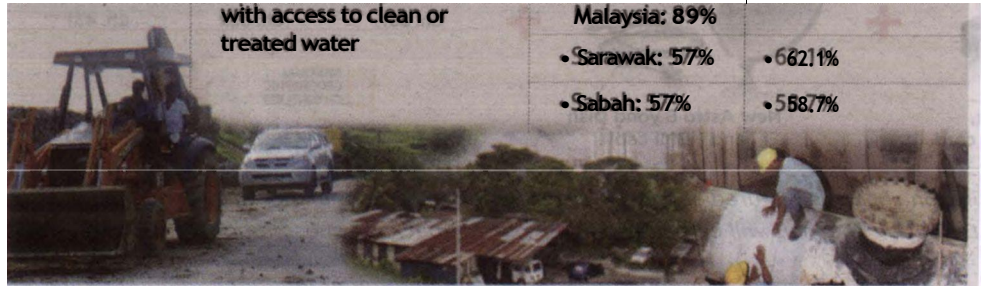
- building two-thirds of the 50,000 houses in East Malaysia, and the rest in Peninsular Malaysia;
- connecting 140,000 additional houses with 24-hour electricity supply; and
- providing 360,000 additional houses with clean or treated water.

The percentage of houses that have clean or treated water currently varies from approximately 89 per cent in Peninsular Malaysia to 57 per cent in Sarawak and Sabah.

To do this, the government

NKPIs AND TARGETS FOR RURAL BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Focus area	KPI	BASELINE	2010
Roads	• Length of newly-paved roads (Peninsular Malaysia)	• N/A	• 210km
	• New roads constructed (Sabah and Sarawak)	• N/A	• 192km in Sabah and 145km in Sarawak
Housing	• Number of newly built / restored houses	• N/A	• 5,819 (Peninsular Malaysia) • 4,988 (Sabah) • 5,819 (Sarawak)
Electricity	• Percentage of houses with access to electricity	• Peninsular Malaysia: 99%	• 99.6%
		• Sarawak: 67%	• 72.6%
		• Sabah: 77%	• 80.8%
Water	• Percentage of houses with access to clean or treated water	• Peninsular Malaysia: 89%	• 91.8%
		• Sarawak: 57%	• 62.1%
		• Sabah: 57%	• 58.7%



said it would reduce the time for administrative processes.

"We will revamp existing processes to become more efficient. Doing things 'the old way' would mean that it would

be physically impossible to achieve our goals within three years."

The government will also increase the supply of manpower, materials and ma-

chines critical in delivering rural basic infrastructure.

It will also ensure effective management and create a mechanism to monitor and coordinate across programmes.