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# D P M : R M 6 7 b i l d i s b u r s e d

## Funds from stimulus package paid out for projects, says Muhyiddin

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**MIRI:** All the RM67bil from the stimulus package allocated by the Government had been channelled for its intended purpose, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

A major portion of the money was for infrastructure projects and there had been clear indications that they had succeeded in spurring the econ-

omy, he said.

Speaking at a luncheon organised by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry here, he said there had been a slower decline in the rate of gross domestic product because of the injection of Federal funds.

"The first and second quarter of 2009 saw a downturn of 4% in GDP. By the end of 2009, the rate of decline dropped to only 12%. If we had not allocated the RM67bil, the country would have witnessed a massive

closure of businesses and increase in unemployment.

"We had averted a major downside because of the stimulus packages," he said. The country's growth rate was projected at about 4% to 5% this year, he said.

Muhyiddin, who is on a two-day working visit to Miri and Bintulu, said it was time to focus on generating greater income and development now that the economic situation had stabilised.

He cited manufacturing, production of electrical and electronic goods, production of palm oil and rubber, and oil and gas as the main sectors that could lead to better level of incomes this year.

"China has increased its import of these products from Malaysia and this is a very good development."

Muhyiddin, however, said the Government was still concerned that most Malaysians were trapped in the middle income category.

The South Koreans, he said, had overtaken Malaysians although they were once lagging behind.

"These Koreans used to come to Malaysia to study our way of doing business. Now, they have surged past us and are four times ahead of us. What happened to Malaysians?"

The Government, he said, was now in the final stages of preparing a new economic model that was aimed at creating a high income status for Malaysia.