

PM: PWD TO DECIDE SABAH'S ROLE

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Dept's job to monitor Pan-Borneo Highway construction, says Dr Mahathir

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THE prime minister will leave it to the Public Works Department (PWD) to decide whether Sabah should manage the Pan-Borneo Highway project in the state.

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was the job of PWD to monitor the highway construction.

"We (the government) have incurred extra expenditure by having outside people supervise. This is PWD's job.

"So PWD is taking back that role, at least in the case of Sabah... it's up to PWD to determine who will be the authority," he said after attending a breaking-of-fast

event at Masjid Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was responding to a question whether the state PWD was taking over the management of the Pan-Borneo Highway project in Sabah.

On slow federal development projects, he said Sabah was not the only state experiencing slow funding.

This, he said, included funding for the People's Housing Project, where tenants were offered rent-to-own deals.

"The problem is we have a lot of obstacles due to the previous government.

"Most importantly is we don't have the money.

"So we have to let the private sector handle things, but we must ensure the private sector is genuine."

He arrived in the state along with his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, and proceeded to the mosque at 6.20pm.

They were accompanied by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal and his wife, Datin Seri Shuryani Shuaib.



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad presenting donations to the hardcore poor at Masjid Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu yesterday. With him is Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal (second from left). PIC BY EDMUND SAMUNTING