

EXTRA RM30M GRANT TO FIX GERIK-JELI HIGHWAY

PM announces additional allocation to upgrade this section of the East-West Highway

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday announced an additional allocation of RM30 million to upgrade the East-West Highway linking Gerik to Jeli.

He said the allocation was for the one-off maintenance cost of the highway, estimated at RM80 million to RM100 million.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said there were many requests for road maintenance allocations in the country, and he

would consider them when tabling the second Madani Budget in October.

"But today (yesterday), I can approve an additional RM30 million for upgrading this road (highway)."

He said this when launching the Works Ministry's MyJalan campaign here.

Present were Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi and Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad.

Earlier, Nanta had announced an initial allocation of RM30 million from the ministry for the upgrade and maintenance of the route.

Anwar said the government had this year approved additional allocations totalling RM370 million for the maintenance of federal roads in the country.

He said RM300 million was for the maintenance of federal roads not provided for in the contracts with concession companies.

"A total of RM20 million is a



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launching the Works Ministry's MyJalan campaign in Gerik, Perak, yesterday. With him are Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad (left) and Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi (right). **BERNAMA PIC**

special allocation for district engineers and RM50 million for installation and maintenance of lights in accident-prone areas."

He said the government had also approved allocations of RM250 million for maintenance work involving small Bumiputera contractors.

He announced a RM1,000 consolation payment to each of the 87 families of Public Works Department (PWD) workers involved in the construction of the East-West Highway (JRTB) (FT004), in recognition of their work.

He presented mementoes to 37 former workers and next of kin of those involved in building JRTB (FT004).

On May 21, 1974, a communist attack damaged scores of heavy

machinery, and on Aug 27, 1974, three PWD workers were killed while working on the highway project.

In Ulu Kinta, Anwar said an additional allocation to repair police quarters would be announced during the tabling of the 2024 Budget.

"Many of them require repair and have not been well maintained for years.

"This is our responsibility. I asked just now how many of these (police force) houses can still be occupied, and it's probably between 40 per cent and 60 per cent."

Anwar, who is Tambun member of parliament, said this after a luncheon with the Ulu Kinta General Operations Force (GOF) personnel.

He said the additional alloca-

tion would be used to repair only basic facilities at the quarters, such as toilets.

"I don't think RM20 million or RM30 million is enough for the Ulu Kinta GOF. But we will try to get more allocations for all."

He had, on July 15, announced an allocation of RM150 million for the maintenance of facilities of agencies under the Home Ministry for the comfort of security forces personnel.

He said the government had approved an allocation of RM45 million for repair and upgrading work and procurement of equipment at 117 GOF control posts.

For police quarters with broken floors and problematic toilets, he approved an allocation of RM50 million for the maintenance of police stations and and quarters.