

# Govt to speed up Pan Borneo Highway project in Sabah

**THE** government will fast-track the implementation of the Pan Borneo Highway project in Sabah which is lagging behind Sarawak.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he told the Finance Ministry to disburse the funds as long as it had passed the pre-qualification of the tender process.

"During the Kembara Kenali Borneo tour by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, people complained about road conditions.

"Allocation has been channelled towards this but the implementation is slow," he said in reply to a supplementary question by Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal (Warisan-Semporna) during the Prime Minister's Question Time.

He was also asked about the water management issue due to mismanagement of funds, which had affected water supply in certain parts of Sabah.

"In certain aspects, *InsyaaAllah*, I will address it this Friday," the prime minister said.

Anwar added that Malaysia was behind Indonesia in the enhancement of facilities along its border with Kalimantan, including the development of the Customs, Im-

migration, Quarantine and Security (CIQS) complexes.

He said this was because Malaysia only kickstarted the project earlier this year, while Indonesia had already established it.

"We are a bit behind compared with Indonesia, which has a better CIQS complex and advanced Customs and Immigration Departments.

"We only commenced the eight projects in Sabah and nine projects in Sarawak after it was approved earlier this year (with the additional allocation given by the government).

"Following this, the completed projects have commenced (operations) and I have asked the related ministry to expedite the remaining projects with the state governments (of Sabah and Sarawak)."

Anwar said this in response to Datuk Seri Dr Jeffrey Kitingan (GRS-Keningau) who had asked the prime minister to clarify the reasons behind the delay in construction works at the Malaysian-Indonesian border in Borneo despite additional allocations granted by the government for upgrading works.