

# PM OKAYS 72KM KAPIT ROAD

**Funds for first phase of RM500m project will be allocated next year, says Anwar**

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday approved the construction of the 72km-long Samaram-Kapit road, which will ease traffic jams here.

He said the state Public Works Department could start preparing this year for the construction of the road.

“We will allocate funds for Phase One of the project next year.

“I believe that by the end of next year or early 2026, the construction could begin,” he said at a gathering with community leaders yesterday.

Anwar said the cost of the project was estimated to be over RM500 million.

“If there is any delay in the construction, don’t ask me, ask Alex,” he said, referring to Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi, who is Kapit member of parliament.

Anwar said he had also approved the construction of a bypass from the Kapit government complex to Jalan Airport.

Anwar, who is finance minister,



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg (left) attending a gathering with community leaders in Kapit, Sarawak, yesterday.*  
BERNAMA PIC

said attention must be given to dilapidated clinics and schools in Kapit, and that repairs must be expedited.

He said Kapit had always been in his heart, saying that had last visited the division in 1994 and 1995 when he was finance minister.

He said Nanta was a senior minister in federal government and that they saw each other during cabinet meetings.

“That is why I will not forget Kapit.”

Earlier, Nanta said it was necessary to upgrade public infrastructure facilities in Kapit, and he

requested that Anwar to consider the 72km-long road from Samaram to Kapit.

“In addition to providing more road facilities, its construction will address traffic congestion in Bandar Kapit.”

Nanta said Kapit was able to support the wishes of the state and federal governments to drive the new economy using technology.

He said that this was proven through three mega dams: Bakun (2,400MW), Murum (944MW) and the soon-to-be completed Baleh (1,285MW).

He said Kapit had 1.6 million

hectares of forested areas for carbon storage, carbon capture and carbon trading.

He said a plan to create cascading dams in rivers in Kapit was one of the newest sources of economy for the area.

He urged Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg, who was present, to explain to the people on how they would benefit from these projects.

Present were Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

*Page 1 pic: A road used by timber lorries in Kapit last year.*