

# RM4b needed annually for road maintenance nationwide

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government is prioritising repairs on the most critical roads due to budget constraints, said Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi.

He said an estimated RM4 billion is needed annually for full-scale road maintenance to maintain all federal roads, including the East-West Highway Gerik-Jeli stretch.

"That is why, with whatever allocation is given year by year, we prioritise road maintenance based on urgency.

"We handle the critical issues first. That is why some damaged roads that are not too critical are put on hold.

"Actually, we already have information on all the roads. We also know some of the financial requirements. To properly fix all the roads, we would need almost RM4 billion," Nanta said on the sidelines of the Hari Gawai Open House at his ministry yesterday.

He added that the ministry has a database on the roads that are in need of urgent repairs.

Also present at the event were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister II Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof and Works Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan.

He added that the ministry has allocated RM55 million for repair works along the East-West Gerik-Jeli route, including the installation of 385 solar powered street lights.

He said installation is scheduled to begin in July, and is expected to be completed by October.

On June 12, a tragic bus crash along the East-West Highway Gerik-Jeli claimed the lives of 15 Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris



Anwar accompanied by (from left) Fadillah, Nanta and Ahmad at the Hari Gawai Open House yesterday.  
— ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

students who were returning from Terengganu to their campus in Perak.

Following the incident, a Pavement Condition Assessment (PCA) was conducted. The report, that is being finalised, will serve as a key reference for future pavement-related initiatives.

A pavement improvement programme

valued at RM80 million will commence once the PCA findings are complete.

Meanwhile, non-pavement works, including the installation of guardrails and signage, are underway.

The works have reached 10% completion and are expected to be finished by August.  
— by Ikhwan Zulkaflee