

Terengganu Tables RM1.95 Billion Budget For 2012
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KUALA TERENGGANU, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Said Monday tabled in the state legislative assembly a RM1.95-billion state budget for next year which he said would focus on developing quality human capital, maintaining the people's well-being and enhancing the state's competitiveness.

The 2012 budget is 3.29 per cent or RM62.07 million more than this year's budget, and 90.48 per cent of the funds would be garnered from the federal government through the Federal Government Special Fund and annual grants and the remaining 9.52 per cent from state government sources, he said.

Ahmad said the federal government would provide huge allocations for high-impact development projects which can contribute to the state's economic growth, and named the Jabor-Kuala Terengganu stretch of the East Coast Expressway as one of them.

"As such, I ask all state government agencies to undertake careful planning and coordinate the federal projects so that they can be completed on schedule for the benefit of the people," he said.

He also said that the state government gave high priority to education and human capital development, and added that RM60.3 million had been allocated under the budget for various projects in the education sector.

Ahmad said the e-book programme introduced in 2009 would be complemented with the virtual class programme already introduced as a pioneer project in three schools.

He also said that to maintain the well-being of the people, the budget had provisions for expanding and improving basic amenities such as water and electricity supply, housing and transportation.

He said it was the government's objective to totally eliminate hardcore poverty and reduce the poverty rate to one per cent in 2013.

"As such, the state government will adopt a more aggressive approach to address poverty through two strategies -- physical development and a mindset change of the targeted group," he said.

The budget had allocated RM42.6 million for poverty eradication and village and community development, he said, adding that the government would continue with its housing aid, income-raising and skills training programmes, among other things.

Ahmad said the budget had allocated RM49.4 million for various kinds of assistance through the Social Welfare Department.

He also said that the state government had agreed to the setting up of housing fund with an initial allocation of RM50 million to offer Syariah-based loans of a maximum of RM50,000 per individual.

The house will sit again on Tuesday.

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