

Najib To Zero In On Project Delays
Bernama
December 20, 2011

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak is expected to chair a meeting with all ministries in mid-January to identify issues causing delays in implementing development projects.

Second Finance Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanadzlah said the issues might include the requirement for land, building and statutory approvals.

They had to be resolved to ensure the country's economy achieve its growth target, he told reporters after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) and Malaysian Orphanage Welfare Society (Peyatim) here.

He said that to generate growth, the government had emphasized domestic demand and public sector expenditure.

In this respect, he said, the Finance Ministry had briefed the prime minister on the initiatives taken to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending next year.

"The prime minister has stressed on effective and efficient government spending.

"The treasury secretary-general has met the secretaries-general of all ministries to make sure all obstacles in the way of development are removed," he said.

Ahmad Husni said the world economy was expected to "decrease a bit" and even the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was expected to revise downward its growth forecast.

"At this point, we can generate domestic demand through domestic investment and spending. We still expect to achieve our target growth of between 5.0 and 6.0 percent," he said.

The Malaysian economy grew 5.8 percent in the third quarter of 2011.

"Government spending in the first and second quarters was quite slow and only in the third quarter we saw real spending. We expect in the fourth quarter development will peak," Ahmad Husni said.

He was sure that the RM6 billion stimulus spending under the 2012 Budget was sufficient.

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