

**More Civil Service Living Quarters In Sarawak Interior – Zahid
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BELAGA, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Supplementary allocation for the provision of living quarters for civil servants in the interior of Sarawak will be streamlined in the 11th Malaysia Plan (2016-2020), said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Details would be announced annually during the tabling of the national budget, he added.

"This is in keeping with the commitment of the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak) to provide living quarters for civil servants, not only teachers but also policemen, soldiers and people of other departments serving in the interior," he said.

Ahmad Zahid spoke to reporters after attending a briefing on the Bakun Hydro-Electric Power Station given by Sarawak Hidro Sdn Bhd environment and health manager Ten Wuon Ping at the Bakun Township Clubhouse at the Bakun Dam here today.

He was asked about the request from teachers serving in the Sarawak interior to be provided with more living quarters.

Many teachers serving in the interior have had to rent accommodation in longhouses due to a lack of living quarters.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also the home minister, said he would discuss with Najib the provision of a special allocation for the construction of a 132-km road from Belaga to Pelagus under the 'Jiwa Murni' project to be undertaken by the Engineers Corps of the armed forces.

Asked whether the government would provide transportation for pupils in the Sarawak interior to return to their family homes, as was done by the Department of Orang Asli Development for pupils in 94 Orang Asli national schools in the peninsula, he said he would discuss the cost implication with the Education Ministry before making a decision.

On his third working visit to Sarawak in three months, Ahmad Zahid said it was to translate the intention of the federal government to strengthen ties in the so-called empowerment of Sabah and Sarawak through the commitment shown by the Prime Minister.

The visit was also to have a first-hand look at several development programmes which the Prime Minister had promised, such as Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Bakun, as well as to look into the requests for development programmes from Sarawak elected representatives, he added.

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