

25-year wait for hospital

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Project still at design stage, says CM

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MALACCA: Twenty-five years after being allocated a piece of land, the Alor Gajah Hospital is still at the design stage.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said the Alor Gajah Hospital, supposed to be built under the 9th Malaysian Plan, was still being designed by the Health Ministry.

"I can only *doa* (pray), it is in their hands," he told Datuk Ghafar Atan (BN - Gadek) and Datuk Wira Amid Nordin (BN - Telok Mas) at the state assembly yesterday.

"It can take a long time for the Government to come up with the design of a hospital. If designed by the private sector, I believe the tender would be out soon," he said, adding that designing by the Government was often delayed due to a small number of architects having to deal with a large number



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of projects.

Earlier, Mohd Ali said the state government had written to the Finance Ministry requesting that projects worth less than RM20mil be tendered at state level, but had yet to receive a reply.

A total of 19 projects under allocation from the Federal Government were planned for this year, but so far only tenders for four projects were out.

The development project at Pulau Melaka, which began in 1996 and was scheduled to be completed in 2000, came to a halt again as its developer Pulau Kembar Sdn Bhd had been wound up by the Johor Baru High Court. A liquidator is being appointed to look after the affairs of the company.

State Housing, Local Government, Environment and Transport Committee chairman Datuk Wira Poh Ah Tiam, replying to Goh Leong San (DAP - Bandar Hilir), expressed dissatisfaction with the developer.

To another question by Betty Chew (DAP - Kota Laksamana), Poh said that pending the appointment of the liquidator, another developer would be tasked to continue with the construction.