

PM to launch 20 high impact projects

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DEDICATED TEAMS TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

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KUALA LUMPUR: Twenty Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) high-impact projects (HIPs) worth some RM100 billion are ready to be rolled out soon.

The projects involve four ministries - Higher Education, Education, Rural and Regional Development, and Agriculture and Agro-based Industry.

All the projects will be monitored by dedicated teams set up by the Prime Minister's Department's National Implementation Directorate (NID) and the ministries to ensure success.

"It is wrong to say

nothing is moving after the 9MP was tabled by Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohd Effendi Norwawi said.

"We have been working on overdrive in the past six months to ready the mechanism for implementing HIPs.

"Unlike previously, the government now wants to ensure that when a HIP is implemented, it does not go awry.

"We have been planning for six months for the 20 projects and the prime minister will be launching them soon.

"We have learnt from

previous mistakes. Projects are implemented but they fail ... schools are built but are not fit for occupation, hospitals are built but cannot be used, and many others.

"There was no proper monitoring of the projects. The NID is now the

difference, with dedicated monitoring teams for every HIP."

Effendi said the NID would be planning for all other HIPs covered by the five-

year 9MP.

"Things are looking good for the country. According to economists, all the indicators point to us achieving or even surpassing our 5.8% projected Gross Domestic

Product growth for this year," he said at a DeepaRaya media briefing yesterday.

"Malaysians, by right, should be celebrating. Unfortunately, many are distracted by negative statements made by individuals," he said.

"It is not just about the overall economic growth of the country that we are not witnessing," he said.

"The planning is very comprehensive, covering more than just construction. We plan for the package, not just the infrastructure," he pointed out.

"We are firing from all fronts ... we have planned 880 projects to further stimulate economic growth under the 9MP."

Effendi said the government has the finances for the development projects.