

RM15b construction projects up for tender

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KUALA LUMPUR: Eight hundred and eighty construction projects worth RM15 billion will be tendered out soon, with the bulk of it going to the building of more schools, the Prime Minister announced yesterday.

In rolling out the preliminary list of projects under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the projects would be implemented through tenders.

Among the projects are for the construction of more than 450 primary and secondary schools, water supply projects in Terengganu and the Integrated Transportation Terminal in Gombak, Selangor.

He also said other projects would be the building of roads such as one from Padang Besar to Bukit Kayu Hitam, as well as bridges such as one from Semporna to Pulau Bum Bum in Sabah.

"This is a preliminary list, and the Government will make announcement from time to time, after obtaining details from the ministries," he said in a statement issued yesterday.

The list shows that the Government is kick-starting the adoption of its private finance initiative (PFI) concept, which sees the Government paying contractors by lease instalments over a long period.

Of the 880 projects, almost half are PFI projects. For the education sector, for example, there are 357 PFI projects out of a total of 497 open for tender.

Abdullah has said the Government would promote a new form of partnership between the Government and the private sector through PFI, which would save it from having to allocate funds up front for development projects.

He had said: "In relevant sectors, I will give preference to proposals that are structured as PFI."

While many infrastructure projects were developed on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis in the 1990s, the PFI concept will introduce greater flexibility in the way the private sector participates, including via arrangements involving Build-Lease-Transfer, BOT or Build-Own-Operate.

Other projects include:

- Prime Minister's Department (71 projects): the building of courts, audit offices and business complexes

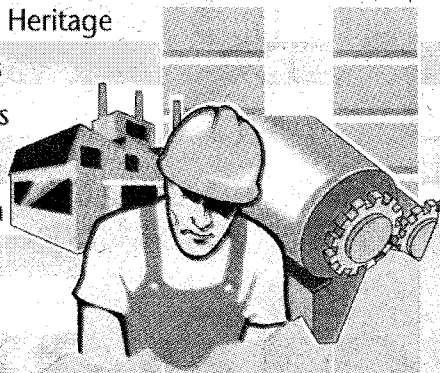
- Works Ministry (66 projects): the upgrading of roads, government quarters and district offices

- Internal Security Ministry (42 projects): police stations, quarters and prison training centres

- Defence Ministry (38 projects):

9MP TENDER LIST

Department/Ministry	Govt Project	Private Finance Initiative
1. Prime Minister's Department	68	3
2. Treasury	12	1
3. Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities	2	1
4. Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry	2	2
5. Ministry of Rural and Regional Development	7	0
6. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	8	4
7. Ministry of International Trade and Industry	2	0
8. Ministry of Works	65	1
9. Ministry of Transport	24	2
10. Ministry of Energy, Water and Communications	12	0
11. Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations	10	0
12. Ministry of Education	140	357
13. Ministry of Health	27	0
14. Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage	5	1
15. Ministry of Youth and Sports	3	0
16. Ministry of Human Resources	0	1
17. Ministry of Information	2	8
18. Ministry of Higher Education	25	0
19. Ministry of Defence	21	17
20. Ministry of Home Affairs	2	3
21. Ministry of Internal Security	18	24
TOTAL	455	425



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Abdullah

training centres and defence-related complexes

- Transport Ministry (26 projects): jetties, transport quarters and offices, upgrading bridges

- Higher Education Ministry (25 projects): upgrading polytechnics and academic complexes in universities

Among the PFI projects up for tender are the building of a second campus for the National Institute of Valuation (Inspen), the Advanced Technology Training Centre in Jerantut, Pahang, and the Sabah Cultural Park.

Abdullah said yesterday that a Project and Planning Management methodology would be used by the Implementation Co-ordination Unit and the National Implementation Directorate to monitor these projects.

This is to ensure projects are completed at a reasonable cost and in the specified time frame, using best practices and processes in their planning and implemen-

tation.

"I will head the National Implementation Task Force to monitor the implementation of these projects.

"All ministries and agencies, as well as the Public Works Department, have been directed to take action immediately so the projects can be implemented as soon as possible," he said.

He said information about the tenders would be advertised in newspapers as well on these websites: myGovernment (www.gov.my), PWD (www.jkr.gov.my) and the Construction Industry Development Board (www.cidb.gov.my).

The list of projects can be found on the websites of the Prime Minister's Department (www.pmo.gov.my), the Finance Ministry (www.treasury.gov.my) and the Economic Planning Unit (www.epu.gov.my).