



PEMANDU
UNIT PENGURUSAN PRESTASI DAN PELAKSANAAN

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45% of 752Km of Roads to be Delivered in 2010 Completed

Kuala Lumpur: Of the 752km of roads the government is committed to deliver in 2010 under the improving Rural Basic Infrastructure (RBI) National Key Results Area (NKRA) of the bold Government Transformation Programme (GTP), 337km (or about 45 percent of target) have been completed as at end February 2010, with 36 percent (or 121km) of the completed roads in Sabah and Sarawak. The remaining 415km for year 2010 delivery is currently in progress.

According Minister of Rural and Regional Development Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal, the implementation of the RBI programme will cost the government RM17.4 billion over the next three years of which RM6.6 billion will be mobilised for building new or upgrading roads. In 2010, approximately RM1.3 billion worth of roads projects will be implemented. The Rural and Regional Development Ministry is leading the implementation and is assisted by Public Works Department and Department of Irrigation and Drainage.

To meet the NKRA targets, Shafie said the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development has undertaken a few additional initiatives to coordinate and accelerate the pace of deployment of these basic services. Recognising the importance of facilitation and close working relationship with suppliers to ensure enough supply of material, machine and manpower, a forum was called on January 22, 2010 to communicate with suppliers and manufacturers in Sabah and

Sarawak (since major bulk of the projects will be implemented in those states). Around 60 suppliers and manufacturers attended the forum, which communicated, among other things, the investments opportunities created by RBI projects. The forum also provided a platform for feedback from the various parties to iron out crucial implementation issues.

On January 25, 2010, the ministry also conducted a special briefing on NKRA to all district officers, residents' office and state secretaries with the objective to gauge the understanding and support of these civil servants to effectively implement the NKRA projects. It has also set up a Special War Room in Putrajaya with the objective to ensure effective project monitoring and tracking the deliveries. The ministry is currently planning to set up a similar facility in Sabah and Sarawak for the same purpose. This series of initiatives was formulated to support the implementation of the NKRA projects and ensure the achievement of the various key performing indicators (KPIs).

“We aim to ensure that all Malaysians living in rural areas are connected to the various road networks,” Shafie said. This requires us to manage the polarity between investing in rural and urban areas. The target we have set ourselves are very ambitious as we attempt to build 11 times as many kilometres of roads over the next three years as compared to what we have achieved between 2006 and 2008.

“Improving the RBI for the *Rakyat* living in rural areas is one of the government's priorities,” Shafie added. “Access to basic infrastructure is the fundamental right of all Malaysians no matter where they live. Roads, electricity, housing and water infrastructure are important for the population's health and socio-cultural advancement and are part of the essential foundations of our nation's economy.”

About 35 percent of Malaysians currently live in rural areas. This number rises to nearly 70 percent in some states. And despite Malaysia's considerable economic achievements, there are many villages still not connected by roads, especially in Sabah and Sarawak. As a result, the government is currently pursuing a major programme to develop RBI in these states, centred on improving the *Rakyat's* quality of life.

The aspiration to increase rural access to basic infrastructure as resulted in the government currently overseeing an ambitious programme to build or upgrade approximately 7,371km of roads in Malaysia of which 1,947km will be in Sabah and Sarawak.

As a result, an estimated 800,000 people will be connected to these road networks. In Peninsular Malaysia, where nearly all of the population is already connected to road systems, the focus will be on paving gravel roads in the rural areas. When the programme is completed in 2012, close to 100 percent of villages within the range of 5km from the main road will be connected with paved roads.