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12MP to emphasise on closing gap between states

➤ Govt to pursue sustainable growth in line with Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, says Muhyiddin

KOTA KINABALU: While emphasising fairness, the federal government is also committed to closing the gap between the more developed states and the less developed ones in determining allocations under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP).

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said in line with the objective of Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, which is development for all, the federal government will pursue sustainable development for all states, including Sabah.

"We understand that in the case of Sabah, its development is still lagging behind some states in the peninsula in some aspects. We are committed to reducing this gap," he added when addressing a meeting at the state administrative centre yesterday.

The theme of his speech was "Prosper Together With Sabah 2030".

Muhyiddin said under the first rolling plan of 12MP, a total of 1,039 development projects

with an allocation of RM5.01 billion has been approved for Sabah.

He said a major development project being carried out in the state is the Sabah Pan Borneo Highway, which he described as a "game changer" that would alter the lives of the people.

Others are the Sapangar Bay Container Port expansion project, upgrading of 50 dilapidated schools and the Sabah rural road project, all of which are expected to boost economic activities in Sabah, he added.

"The government's efforts are also focused on addressing poverty and strengthening inclusive development in the state. The Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on most people, with many falling below the poverty line.

"This is a serious matter. How do we provide inclusive development for Sabah?"

"For example, the PKAN programme (Program Khas Anak Negeri) for Sabah natives,

namely Native Customary, Customary Courts and Human Capital Development, are being implemented."

Muhyiddin said the measures taken were expected to ensure balanced socio-economic development for the well-being of Sabahans, adding that to address the gap in development between urban and rural areas, the government will continue to take a comprehensive approach to ensure every citizen's welfare.

He said there are about 1.52 million people in Sabah's rural areas, which is 20% of the country's rural population.

The government will continue to carry out various initiatives to improve connectivity between rural and urban areas through the construction of 700km of roads under the rural road project that will benefit 232,000 residents, he added.

Muhyiddin said an allocation of RM369.8 million had also been made for housing projects for hardcore poor, which includes RM213.6 million for the construction of 2,700 new houses and RM156.2 million for repair works on 9,200 housing units.

He said focus would also be given to vulnerable groups. - Bernama