

KERATAN AKHBAR

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Sabah to appeal if Putrajaya halts projects

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KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah government will appeal if the federal government defers or discontinues any state project that has yet to commence, the state assembly was told yesterday.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor said Sabah needs a large allocation to develop the state, especially involving the development of public infrastructure.

He said the federal government has yet to officially inform the state government about

deferment or discontinuance of any project, adding that when such notification is received, he would appeal to ensure the project was continued.

"This is very important because we always said the allocation given was insufficient. To defer or withdraw (the allocation) is not very good for Sabah. We will appeal once we are officially notified," he said in reply to a supplementary question from Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak (BN-Usukan), who asked about a report stating

that the federal government would defer or discontinue projects that have not started.

On Sunday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed was reported to have said the move was to save on public expenditure to enable funds to be channelled for the welfare of the people and efforts to revive the economy.

In his reply to a question from Datuk Rubin Balang (Independent-Kemabong), who asked about the state government's approach to

improving the economy, Hajiji said various efforts have been made to attract tourists.

He added that Sabah recorded a significant increase in tourist arrivals for the first five months of the year, with 558,169 compared with 102,965 in the same period last year.

"This shows an increase in the number of tourists by 442%. I am confident this figure will increase further by the end of this year following the opening of land, sea, and air entry points," he said. - Bernama