

KERATAN AKHBAR

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Tok Pa: Projects that benefit people will proceed

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THERE are no plans to postpone or cancel mega projects meant for the benefit of the rakyat, says Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

The assurance by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department came following plans to defer proposed projects for 2022 in line with Federal Government cost-saving measures.

"Projects such as the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL), MRT3 and the Pan Borneo highway will go ahead as planned.

"What is being looked at are pro-

jects which have yet to even begin," he said when answering a question raised by Fahmi Fadzil (PH-Lembah Pantai).

He said crucial projects related to the nation's economic well-being and the rakyat's welfare would not be included in the cost-saving measures.

He noted that a total of 7,243 projects worth some RM75.6bil were approved this year under Budget 2022.

"So far, we have identified 30 projects which have yet to start.

They will be postponed.

"These projects involved allocation of about RM100mil which is a small sum," he said in assuring Datuk Seri Azizah Mohd Dun (PN-Beaufort) that no welfare projects would be affected in Sabah.

He was responding to Azizah's remarks that while RM100mil might be a small sum for the ministry, this was not the case for the needy in Sabah.

"The definition of a project which has yet to start are those where the procurement process has yet to

even begin or advertised, or those which have problems such as not even having land for the project," he said.

Based on the government's definition, he added that a project was deemed to have started if the company were issued letters of intent or acceptance by the government.

"There is a misconception that there must be actual earthworks for a project to have started," he said, adding that projects which had received the go-ahead would proceed as planned.