

## KERATAN AKHBAR

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### RM95 billion budget development expenditure to support 12MP objectives



KUALA LUMPUR: The RM95 billion development expenditure (DE) allocated under Budget 2023 will support the government's 12th Malaysian Plan (12MP) objectives of achieving a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable Keluarga Malaysia (Malaysian Family).

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said the allocation for 7,615 development projects in 2023, includes 1,724 new projects and 5,891 project extensions.

"The development spending is the highest in history, with an increase of RM19.4 billion (25.7 per cent) from RM75.6 billion in 2022," he said in a statement today.

Mustapha added among the new projects that would be developed and approved under Budget 2023 includes infrastructure and facilities enhancement in rural areas; Phase 1B of Pan Borneo highway in Sabah; Phase 2 of Sarawak and Sabah Link Road; upgrading of six lanes on the North-South Expressway (PLUS) Senai Utara-Pandan (Johor Baru).

Other projects include flood mitigation plans nationwide; the development of Police Headquarters (IPK) in Kelantan and Perak; construction of Maran Hospital in Pahang;

river mouth conservation in Setiu, Terengganu; implementation of the People's Housing Programme (PPR) in Arau, Perlis; and Foreign Direct Investment Drive Fund.

To reduce the regional development gap, Mustapa said the government also allocated 50.3 per cent of basic DE to six less-developed states to carry out infrastructure works for water, electricity, roads, as well as health, and improve education access.

He said RM1 billion had been allocated specifically to speed up the Malaysian Family hardcore poverty eradication programme (BMTKM) in 2023, with RM750 million from DE and some RM250 million donation from government-linked companies (GLCs) under the corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme.

"The DE allocation for BMTKM increased five fold compared to RM150 million in 2022.

"Poor households that would benefit from BMKTM would also increase from 10 thousand recipients this year to over 50 thousand in 2023.

"This is in line with the government's commitment to eradicate hardcore poverty nationwide as stipulated in RMK-12," he said.

Mustapha also said the Economic Planning Unit and the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) of the Prime Minister's department will further strengthen BMKTM coordination and implementation in making sure the living standard of poor household are improved and that they will exit the absolute poverty group by the end of 2025.

"I, along with the chief secretary to the government, will chair the National Development Project Implementation Facilitation Committee (JP4N) with all ministries on Oct 13 to ensure respective implementation plans and issues could be addressed immediately.

"The government has always prioritised the provision of better infrastructure and basic facilities for the people," he said.