



Osu signing a plaque on the handing over of the houses

RM1.8 billion of Sabah's allocation already used

By SUNAR TUMIRAN

KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Government has spent RM1.8 billion or 34 per cent of the RM4.6 billion approved under the Seventh Malaysia Plan for development projects.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam said the amount spent until March this year showed the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) Government was committed to developing Sabah despite the unfavourable economic conditions.

Osu also gave an assurance that the UMS permanent campus project would be continued although it might be delayed.

"Initially, we may build four or five of the nine blocks as suggested earlier and provide the basic amenities for the students," he said.

He said RM244 million was spent for the construction of the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) permanent campus in Sepanggar, Menggatal, Berungis-Kota Belud road (RM150 million), Kota Kinabalu-Sulaman coastal road (RM315 million), Beaufort-Menumbok road (RM155 million) and

(RM83 million).

The office of the Land and Mines Department Director-General also spent more than RM232 million for various housing projects, including for civil servants and university students, said Osu, who is also Finance Minister.

He was speaking after witnessing the handing over of 296 double-storey terrace houses for the use of UMS students by Wilakaya Sdn Bhd to the Federal Government at Sepanggar, near here, today.

He said the State government would implement projects which it had committed itself to.

Meanwhile, speaking at the launch of the State-level Amanah Saham Angkasa (ASA) here, Osu urged the people to support the unit trust scheme by investing in it.

The long-term investments could help stabilise share prices in the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange besides helping the government tide over the economic problems, he said in his speech read out by Datuk Abdul Rahim Ismail, who is the Assistant

Completion of UMS hit by the slowdown, says Osu

THERE will be a slight delay in the completion of the Universiti Malaysia Sabah permanent campus in Menggatal near here due to the economic slowdown.

Osu said work on the campus would proceed, nevertheless.

"Maybe half of the nine building blocks planned for implementation in the Seventh Malaysia Plan would be built first, he said."

Earlier Osu witnessed the handing over of 296 units of double-storey terrace houses by Wilakaya Sdn Bhd to the Land and Mines Department Director General at Sepanggar, near here, Monday.

The houses costing some RM43 million will be used as accommodation for UMS students.

He said the houses could accommodate more than 1,000 students comfortably.

According to him, the shifting of UMS from its temporary campus to the permanent campus would be delayed.

"Not before the completion of the basic requirement for them to shift is completed," he said.

He said the delay will take about one year.

Osu said the running of UMS would not be affected because there is already a temporary site.

He added that he had instructed the developer, the Kota Kinabalu Municipal Council and the Water Department to overcome the water problem at the housing estate within two weeks.

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