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No money to start approved projects

IPOH: Money for 155 Public Works Department (PWD) projects approved in Perak under the 8th Malaysia Plan has not come down to the state.

“Maybe, the Treasury had given the allocation to the ministry concerned but the money had not trickled to the state,” said Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Tajol Rosli Ghazali.

He was responding to observations in the 2005 Auditor-General’s Report that Perak had yet to work on 155 of 159 projects under the jurisdiction of the PWD. “It is not that we did not want to start on the projects. It is because there is no allocation for them. Not even RM10,” he told reporters yesterday.

Tajol Rosli said of the 155 approved projects, 43 were for road construction while 112 were for buildings. He said Perak received less than RM1mil for land acquisition and design works for 39 of the 115 approved projects and nothing else.

“So, of course you cannot see any of the projects moving on the ground. The allocation did not reach us. How could money be wasted then, when we were not even given the money to spend?” he asked. Tajol Rosli said the state government would suggest to the Federal Government to scrap certain projects under the 9th Malaysia Plan so that the state government would not be seen as not doing its job.

One suggestion is to scrap the planned RM795mil double tracking project from Padang Rengas (near Kuala Kangsar) to Changkat Jering (near Taiping).

“There is no point continuing with the double tracking project, when there is no link between Penang and Padang Rengas or between Ipoh and Taiping,” he said.