

KERATAN AKHBAR

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KUALA LUMPUR: The study on the construction of the East Coast Expressway Phase 3 has been completed and submitted to the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister's Department, said Senior Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

He said the ministry is awaiting further action from relevant agencies, and the EPU would decide if the expenditure for it would be allocated in the first rolling plan of the 12th Malaysia Plan or later.

Fadillah said this would depend on the government's financial capability and would also take into consideration the priority of the project in the relevant states.

"Our responsibility is to conduct research. We now have to see what is the next course of action in terms of allocation."

He was speaking after the soft launch of the 11th Malaysian Road Conference and Exhibition and the 4th International Road Federation Asia-Pacific Regional Congress yesterday.

The government had previously approved the construction of the expressway's Phase 3, with preliminary works costing RM35 million, involving a 150km-stretch from Gemuruh, Terengganu to Tumpat, Kelantan.

On labour shortage in the construction sector, Fadillah said, the problem had eased

following the re-entry of foreign workers into the country since last month.

He said the Malaysian Road Conference and the 4th International Road Federation Asia-Pacific Regional Congress would be held simultaneously from Oct 11 to 13 at the Kuala Lumpur World Trade Centre.

Fadillah expressed hope that innovative designs, building materials, new methods and techniques would be introduced during the three-day event.

He said the planning, construction, maintenance and management of federal and state roads covering 254,000km, must be given priority. - Bernama