

PM: Billions being lost

■ By Firdaus Abdullah
firdy@nst.com.my

Paying heavy price for lack of maintenance

KUCHING, Sun. — Lack of maintenance of government buildings and public infrastructure, coupled with vandalism, is washing billions of ringgit down the drain.

The Prime Minister is naturally upset.

"This is our glaring weakness... the weakness of the Government, public sector and the people in general for failing to make good use of the facilities provided for them," Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

Abdullah, who is also Finance Minister, said many facilities, from large buildings to water pipes, needed major repairs because the problems had not been detected in the early stages.

He said things were made worse by the failure to act fast, resulting in losses amounting to billions of ringgit due to repairs when the damage had become severe.

"This shows we are not wise in using facilities," he said.

"Damage will happen, and we also do not know how to repair them, and are late in repairing. Our maintenance is poor."

To check the rot, Abdullah said,

'A stitch in time saves nine', so it is important to carry out regular maintenance. The cost will also be lower.'

Abdullah

he would direct the Public Works Department to prepare a guide on the early detection, repair and maintenance of government buildings and public facilities.

Abdullah was speaking to reporters after participating in a community service programme and closing a gathering of the Barisan Nasional Backbenchers' Club 2006 at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (Agama) Sheikh Haji Othman Abdul Wahab in Matang near here.

In his speech at the closing ceremony, Abdullah urged government servants and elected repre-

sentatives to keep watch on facilities which required regular maintenance.

This, he said, would prevent such facilities from reaching a dilapidated state.

"A stitch in time saves nine', so it is important to carry out regular maintenance," he said. "The cost will also be lower."

He called on Members of Parliament and state assemblymen not to compete against each other in wanting facilities or projects in their area.

"In every parliamentary constituency, there are two or more

state assemblymen, and they should enhance co-ordination and work as a team to achieve greater development in that particular constituency," Abdullah said.

"This co-operation and co-ordination is vital as it will lead to smoother implementation of programmes.

"We don't want wasteful competition. At times there are similar projects in a single parliamentary constituency due to a lack of co-ordination. This is a waste as the people in another area could benefit from the same project."

He said elected representatives should adopt a "teamwork culture" to face increasing demands from the people.

"We can render better service to our respective constituencies by moving as one team," said Abdullah, who is also BN chairman.

Earlier, Abdullah led the BNBB's community service programme at the religious school, joined by Sarawak state assemblymen.

The elected representatives followed Abdullah and Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri George Chan in a host of gotong-royong activities, including repainting the school's surau and cleaning the garden.

Some of the highlights of the report were as follows:

1. Lack of maintenance of government buildings and public infrastructure, coupled with vandalism is washing billions of ringgit down the drain. The Prime Minister is naturally upset.
2. This is our glaring weakness – the weakness of the government, the public sector and the people in general for failing to make good use of the facilities provided for them.
3. He said many facilities, from large buildings to water pipes, needed major repairs because the problem had not been detected in the early stages. Things were made worse by the failure to act fast, resulting in losses amounting to billions of ringgit due to repairs when the damage had become severe. Our maintenance is poor.
4. To check the rot, the PM would direct the Public Works Department to prepare a guide on the early detection, repair and maintenance of government buildings and public facilities.
5. PM urged government servants and elected representatives to keep watch on facilities which required regular maintenance. This would prevent such facilities from reaching such a dilapidated state. It is important to carry out regular maintenance; the cost would be lower.

Background

In 2003, EAROPH organized a National Conference on "Maintenance Culture" which was officiated by the then Deputy Prime Minister, YB Dato Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. It was also during this conference that EAROPH's Asia Pacific Institute For Good Asset Management (APIGAM) was officially launched by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, YB Dato Seri Ong Ka Ting. Ever since then and despite relentless efforts by EAROPH-APIGAM through conferences, seminars and workshops to promote and adopt Good Asset Management practice, it is slow in its acceptance by the public sector in this country.



Objectives of the Conference



- To inculcate the practice of Systemic Asset Management by professionals and asset developers in both the public and private sector within the 4-phase life-cycle process of (a) Asset Conception and Planning, (b) Asset Acquisition or through the process of Design and Construction, (c) Asset Operation and Maintenance, and (d) Asset Renewal or Disposal—such as planners, architects, engineers, quantity surveyors developers and other related professionals for developments in both sectors.
- To emphasize on the dire needs of Systemic Asset Management technology on the appropriate but holistic process of maintenance for public infrastructure systems, building and facilities which must be incorporated at their conception and planning stage; and also the need to ensure public facilities continue to give reliable services at affordable costs to the public through life-cycle Systemic Asset Management (SAM);
- To get all citizens involved in maintenance of public facilities, including government, NGO's, Residents' Associations, local government, the public works department, local politicians, the private sector and the civil societies;

Sub-Themes

- Good Asset Management as a public policy for the planning, design & construction of infrastructure, building and facilities by Policy Makers, Planning, Design & Construction Professionals and Developers;
- Good Asset Management for the Operation & Maintenance of Facilities by Building Owners, Facility Managers, and Local Governments;
- Good Asset Management for the Citizens, Politicians and Civil Societies.

Conference Programme



Thursday 4th May:

- 08.00am Registration
- 09.00am Arrival of VIPs
- 09.30am Opening Ceremony by Deputy Prime Minister
- 10.30am Keynote Address by SAM Foreign Expert
- 11.30am Parallel Sessions
- 01.00 pm Lunch Break
- 02.00pm Parallel Sessions
- 04.30pm End of Day 1

Friday 5th May

- 09.00am Keynote 2
- 10.00am Parallel Sessions
- 12.30pm Lunch Break and Friday Prayers
- 02.30pm Interactive Workshop Sessions
- 04.00pm Draft proposals to the Government
- 05.00pm End of Conference

Speakers



All speakers are internationally renowned. A majority of the Speakers will be from Australia and New Zealand where systemic asset management has been adopted in every aspects of governance and management since more than 20 years ago.

Who Should Attend

This conference would be invaluable to:

- Policy makers i.e. government departments from Federal, state and local authorities who all have assets such as hospitals, community halls, buildings, vehicles, schools, housing;
- Developers and property owners;
- Professionals in the design and construction line such as engineers, architects, urban planners, valuers, quantity surveyors, landscape architects, interior designers;
- Service providers, such as IWK, TNB, Telekom, PLUS, PUAS, SYABAS, Alam Flora, etc.
- Institutes of Higher Learning
- Members of the Public, NGO's, Residents Association.

REGISTRATION FEE

- Government, and all EAROPH members - RM 250.00
- Private Sector & Service Providers - RM 500.00
- NGO's, Residents' Association - RM 50.00

CLOSING DATE

The Closing date for registration to participate shall be **3rd May 2006**

PROFESSIONAL CPD POINTS

- Persatuan Arkitek Malaysia 4 CPD points
- Malaysian Institute of Planners 2 CPD points

ENQUIRIES

All enquiries should be directed to:

EAROPH (MALAYSIA)

Level 2, Block K, Ministry of Housing and Local Government,
Pusat Bandar Damansara, 50644 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: 03 2092 5217 Fax: 03 2092 4217 email: earophmy@streamyx.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Names:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

Organization:

Address:

.....
.....
.....

Contact Details:

Tel: (O) :

Fax :

Email :

Total Payment:

RM :

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

SYSTEMIC ASSET MANAGEMENT -

BUILDING, MANAGING

& MAINTAINING

FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

**4th - 5th
MAY 2006**

**SHERATON HOTEL
SUBANG JAYA**

Organized By

EAROPH (MALAYSIA)



EAROPH-APIGAM



REHDA INSTITUTE

