

August 13, 2015, Thursday Anthony Joseph, reporters@theborneopost.com



Manyin hits a gong to launch the project. At second left is Miri Mayor Lawrence Lai while Assistant Minister of Communication Datuk Lee Kim Shin is at third left.

MIRI: Jalan Tudan will be upgraded from an R3 road to a U5 standard dual carriageway with construction expected to take 18 months.

Minister of Infrastructure Development and Communication Dato Sri Michael Manyin Jawong launched the project costing RM43.7 million yesterday.

He said the government will not only concentrate on infrastructure in urban areas but also rural and remote areas to close the socioeconomic gap and pointed out that Sarawak needs RM15 billion to connect roads to every longhouse and kampung.

“It is going to be costly for us, in the region of RM100 million to connect and link 1,000 people in rural and remote areas in the state with urban areas or outside world. We still need 5,000km throughout the state to connect or link every longhouse and village through road systems,” he said.

“Government isn’t a genie or fairy godmother who can fulfil the requests and needs of the people in an instant or overnight. The people should understand that there are other agencies and procedures need to be followed. What they request must be justified with the urgency and needs of the people.”

He estimated that there are 1.6 million vehicles on the road in the state, which has a population of 2.5 million.