

THE NATION THAILAND

State agency to accelerate public-private projects

National

Feb 22, 2020



By The Nation

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects will be speeded up with quicker disbursement of budget funding, State Enterprise Policy Office (Sepo) director-general Prapas Kong-led said.

He said the office planned to disburse funding of around Bt350 billion.

"At the end of January, the office has a cumulative disbursement plan of Bt35.399 billion which can disburse Bt37.279 billion, accounting for 105 per cent of the plan," he said.

"Sepo aimed to disburse not less than 90 per cent from the investment budget this year."

He further explained that Sepo this year aimed to collect Bt188.8 billion, up Bt20.8 from the previous year, from state enterprises and businesses in which the Ministry of Finance holds less than 50 per cent stake.

"On February 19, we collected about Bt95.635 billion, accounting for 50 per cent of the target," he said. "Sepo expects that the office will be able to collect revenue delivered to the state as targeted to be sufficient for government expenses and maintain fiscal stability."

He added the Sepo will speed up investment of the government sector, adding disbursement of state enterprises would be not less than 90 per cent of the plan.

"This will help the private sector in investing in government business through laws, regulations, and PPP process to accelerate various projects," he added.

"Besides, this will help promote the integration of joint investment projects, such as community-based power plants or electric charging stations of energy-related state enterprises."

Meanwhile, Sepo deputy director Piyawan Lamkitcha said that this year there will be six PPP projects totalling Bt385 billion, which allow joint investment agreements. They are: operation and maintenance of two motorways projects -- Bang Pa-In to Nakhon Ratchasima, and Bang Yai to Kanchanaburi, under the Department of Highways -- Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok Hotel land allocation project under the Syndicate of Thai Hotels and Tourists Enterprises Limited; Bangpra Golf Club state land rental project under the Treasury Department; Nakhon Phanom border transport centre project under the Department of Land Transport; and MRT Orange Line from Bang Khun Non to Min Buri under the Mass Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand.

“The four PPP projects totalling Bt31 billion, which will be proposed to the PPP committee are: Chiang Mai housing community (Nong Hoi) and residential project and commercial development along the mass rapid transit network project under the National Housing Authority, Ministry of Public Health Medical Complex under the Department of Medical Services, and public port management for liquid cargo handling project under the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand,” she added.