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KUALA LUMPUR (Nov 9): The value of work done in Malaysia's construction sector soared by 9.6% year on year (y-o-y) in the third quarter of this year (3Q2023) to record a total of RM33.4 billion, said the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM).

Chief statistician Datuk Seri Mohd Uzir Mahidin said the value of work done in the construction sector continued to sustain its positive pace for the sixth quarter in 3Q2023 (2Q2023: 8.1%).

"The momentum was driven by a double-digit growth in the civil engineering sub-sector, which increased by 17.1% (2Q2023: 10.4%); and a surge in the special trade activities by 16.2% (2Q2023: 9.8%)," he said in DOSM's "Quarterly Construction Statistics, Malaysia, 3Q2023" report.

He said the residential buildings also contributed to the growth, recording 7.9% (2Q2023: 6.9%).

Meanwhile, the sub-sector of non-residential buildings decreased marginally by 0.7%, in contrast to the 5.7% growth in the previous quarter.

Out of RM33.4 billion recorded in the 3Q2023, a total of RM13.5 billion or 40.5% of the value of construction work done was in civil engineering, he elaborated.

The rise was mainly attributed to the construction of roads and railways, with 22.1%, or amounting to RM7.4 billion.

The value of work done for non-residential buildings and residential buildings

Construction sector expands 9.6% y-o-y to RM33.4 bil in 3Q2023 — DOSM

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was RM9.2 billion (27.5%) and RM7.3 billion (21.9%), respectively.

The special trade activities contributed RM3.4 billion (10.0%), primarily in plumbing, heat and air-conditioning installation (RM1.1 billion); and electrical installation (RM0.9 billion) activities, he said.

Meanwhile, the private sector continued as the main impetus to growth in this quarter, with an increase of 8.6% (2Q2023: 17.3%), which came from special trade activities (26.5%) and civil engineering (10.2%).

The value of work done by the private sector amounted to RM19.6 billion or 58.5% of the total value of construction work done.

On the other hand, the public sector, with a 41.5% share or RM13.9 billion, rebounded strongly, recording a double-digit growth of 10.9%, compared with a decline of 4.8% in the previous quarter.

This rebound was fuelled by civil engineering (19.2%) and residential buildings activities (14.8%), totalling RM10.6 billion and RM0.5 billion, respectively.

Nearly 60% of the value of work done in 3Q2023 was concentrated in Selangor (RM8.1 billion or 24.2%); while the Federal Territories (Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan) was valued at RM4.3 billion or 12.8%, Sarawak at RM3.8 billion or 11.4%, and Johor at RM3.5 billion or 10.6%.

"The performance of the construction work done for the first three quarters of 2023 was valued at RM98.0 billion, reflecting a 9.0% increase compared to the corresponding period in 2022 (1Q2022 to 3Q2022: 6.6%).

"Notably, the positive growth was propelled by the significant contribution of civil engineering activities (14.9%)," Mohd Uzir added.