

07 JUN 1996

Shahidan-Reclamation

CONTRACTS FOR 13 DEVELOPERS TO RECLAIM LAND IN PERLIS

KANGAR, June 7 (Bernama) -- The Perlis government has awarded contracts to 13 local companies to reclaim and develop some 2,600 hectares of the state's offshore areas.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said the decision to grant them the concession was made at the State Executive Council meeting two days ago.

On completion of the reclamation work, the entire offshore areas of the state, stretching downwards for about 15 kilometres from the Thai border to the boundary with Kedah, could be developed for various purposes including business and commercial areas, hotels, housing estates, a jetty and a marina.

Shahidan said the companies had been given six months to commence work in the areas allotted them, failing which the government would withdraw the concession given.

All the companies had signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the state government on last April 12, witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Serik Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The government's move to reclaim the offshore areas was to ensure a more rapid economic development in the state, and the land would be given to the developers after they had successfully completed their respective projects.

Asked to comment on the directive issued by the federal government for the state to replace the Malay reserve land acquired for development, Shahidan said the problem had not occurred in Perlis.

The government would always take note of the issue since Perlis did not have vast tracts of land, he said.

As practised at present, the state government would always replace the Malay reserve land acquired for development with other land of the same size and value, he added. -- BERNAMA

IQ AR RM