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Ling-Railway

KTM TO RECOMMEND CONSULTANTS FOR PROPOSED TRANS-ASIAN RAILWAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 25 (Bernama) -- Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTM) has been asked to give the names of local and foreign consultants who are qualified to conduct the feasibility study on the proposed trans-Asian railway from Singapore to China, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

The ministry would select the consultant for the job based on the list provided by KTM, he said.

The consultant would be asked to conduct studies on three major aspects -- economic, engineering and facilitation -- of the railway project, he told reporters at his office here.

The economic study will concentrate on forecasting the cargo and passenger loads for the service while the engineering part would set the standards for the railway tracks, Dr Ling said.

The cross-border movement of cargoes and passengers through customs and immigrations check points will be covered by the study on facilitation, he

The railway link was proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Asean Summit in Bangkok last December.

The RM2 million feasibility study, to be undertaken and financed by Malaysia, will cover four possible routes that the rail link could take.

One is from Singapore to Kunming in southern China via Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Phnom Penh, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.

The second suggestion is from Singapore passing through Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Vientiane and Kunming. The third possible route is Singapore-Kuala Lumpur-Bangkok-northern Thailand-northern Myanmar-Kunming.

The fourth suggested route is Singapore-Kuala Lumpur-Bangkok-Myanmar-Kunming. -- BERNAMA

YBK YBY