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Ramli-Proton

PM TO PERFORM GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF SECOND PROTON FACTORY

TANJONG MALIM, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will perform the ground breaking ceremony of the second Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional (Proton) factory site at Lembah Bernam near here on March 16, Perak Menteri Besar, Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib, said today.

He said 1,215 hectares of land for Proton and Heavy Industries Corporation of Malaysia (Hicom) had been approved and the companies were building their site offices here.

The state government would provide another 400ha near the area for the project and was identifying the site, he told reporters after a closed-briefing by Hicom president, Datuk Seri Yahaya Ahmad, before visiting the project site in a helicopter.

Present at the briefing were Proton managing director, Datuk Mohd Nadzmi Mohd Salleh and state Industrial Development and Entrepreneurs Committee chairman, Datuk Junus Wahid.

Ramli said to ensure smooth implementation of the project a steering committee, chaired by State Secretary, Datuk Habib Mansor, had been formed.

The state government would also build a new road between the Proton factory and Kg Samak Estet, near the Perak-Selangor border to increase the number of roads there, he said.

He said the government would also upgrade the 3.2 kilometre road between the Proton factory to the traffic lights at Tanjung Malim.

The state government planned to turn the project area into one of the largest automobile centre in the region with an integrated township having commercial and recreation facilities, he said.

Proton, which had been allocated 800 hectares would build a RM2 billion factory to increase its production from 150,000 cars annually to 500,000 units a year.

The second factory, expected to be fully operational by 2002 is expected to produce an additional 350,000 cars annually to meet increasing demand which could not be met by the RM560 million Proton factory at Shah Alam.

Hicom was allocated 400 hectares near the site of the national car factory and another 400 hectares at Seri Iskandar. -- BERNAMA