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PM WITNESSES SIGNING FOR BUKIT MERAH SMART TOWNSHIP

TAIPING, March 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today witnessed the signing of a tripartite venture which will see the development of the RM1 billion Bukit Merah Lake Town project into a intelligent and smart township.

The signing between three local companies marks the first step taken to incorporate advanced telecommunications services into Bukit Merah, the first township of its kind in the country.

The agreement was signed between the developer of the township, Segi Objektif (M) Sdn Bhd, a member of the Emkay Group of Companies, Celluar Communication Network (M) Sdn Bhd (Celcom) and Amnet (M) Sdn Bhd, a new integrated and complex system design company at the township site office in Bukit Merah, about 15 km from here.

Emkay was represented by its chairman Datuk Mustapha Kamal Abu Bakar, Celcom by its president, Hj Rosli Man and Amnet by its chairman Datuk Haji Ahmad Razali Mohd Ali.

Rosli told reporters at the function that Celcom would invest RM30 million over a 10-year period to undertake telecommunication infrastructure in the area.

The company would supply the infrastructure such as the telecommunication lines and fibre optics, while Amnet would supply the electronics equipments.

Under the pact, Celcom would provide, operate and maintain an advanced telecommunication network information project as well as undertake interconnectivity with other operators, he said.

The three companies Sept last year conducted a feasibility study on the level of communication and telecommunication technology that could be implemented in this mixed development project which covered 613 hectares situated at the Bukit Merah Interchange of the North-South Highway, north of the state.

Among the facilities that would be implemented in the area are advanced voice and visual communication technology utilising fibre optics and wireless technology, building premise automation systems and the usage of teleports.

Amnet will be introducing for the first time in Malaysia teleport services which involves an integrated and centralised utilities services which would act as a one stop agency for the billing and payment for the services.

The Bukit Merah township, a development integrating commercial, leisure, recreational and residential areas fronting the 2,800 hectare (7,000 acres) freshwater lake, is expected to be completed in stages.

The first phase of the project costing RM170 million among others comprises a RM20 million "Water Theme Park" on a 4.4 ha area which is expected to be ready by October this year.

Family hotels, chalets, a marine village, a food court and shopping arcade, and bungalow lots are among the projects earmarked under Phase One.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir was briefed on the development of the township by Mustapha Kamal before being taken for an on-site visit.

The Prime Minister was also taken for a boat ride at the lake where he released fish fry into the lake. -- BERNAMA

HK RAZ