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Ramli-Resort

KERIAN, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said today the state government never acquired land from the people for major projects.

The government itself makes available land for such projects and therefore the issue of people being forced to surrender their land does not arise, he told reporters after visiting the Tasek Bukit Merah Water Theme Park project here.

Ramli was commenting on the claim by some people that the state government had oppressed them by awarding 1,200 hectares of land in Lembah Beriah near here to a company to be developed as an industrial park.

The people further claimed that the land included Felcra land which, according to them, belonged to them.

Ramli, however, said the state government had not chosen anybody to be shareholders of that Felda scheme.

Meanwhile, Ramli said the Tasek Bukit Merah park, the first such park in the northern region of the peninsula, would be ready by February

It is the first phase of a RM1 billion lakeside development project undertaken by Segi Objektif (M) Sdn Bhd, part of the Emkay group.

To be fully developed in 20 years, it will consist of shopping centres and showrooms, offices and business park, an 18-hole golf course, residential development including bungalows and condominiums, hotel, waterfront festive shopping centre, a private school, college and private hospital.

The water theme park which took off the ground about eight months ago is 75 per cent completed and is expected to operate in two to three months.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officially open the park in April.

Sprawling over 4.4 hectares of area, the RM20 million park consists of "raft" rides (floating on inflatable tubes), giant waterslides, slow river ride, giant wave pool and children water slides.

Ramli is confident that the number of tourists visiting Perak would increase once the park was operational as various packages had been drawn up by Segitiga Objektif to attract visitors.

Visitors will be taken on package tours to Bukit Larut, Kuala Gula Bird Sanctuary, Taiping Zoo and Taiping Lake.

Ramli said the Orient Express rail service between Singapore and Bangkok would stop at the Bukit Merah railway station and the passengers on board would be taken to the lakeside.

During the visit, Ramli witnessed the signing of an agreement between Rimba Raya Berhad and Emkay to hand over the management of Bukit Jana Golf and Country Club to the Emkay Group. -- BERNAMA

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