

01 JUL 1996

DRB-HICOM TO SPEND ANOTHER RM100 MLN ON TASIK KENYIR TOURIST RESORT

By: Sulaiman Jaafar

KUALA TERENGGANU, July 1 (Bernama) -- The DRB-Hicom group will spend another RM100 million to provide various tourist attractions at Tasik Kenyir in the next three to five years.

Its chairman Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad said to date about RM100 million had been spent to develop an international-class hotel, the Tasik Kenyir Golf Resort.

"This is the first big investment made in the area. It is appropriate with the call voiced by the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) for the development of Tasik Kenyir," he told Bernama in an interview at the hotel, here last night.

The five-star holiday resort began operation on June 15 and it is expected to be officially opened by Dr Mahathir in mid-August.

The hotel, which has 200 rooms including 130 chalets, is managed by Glenmarie Hotels and Resorts, a subsidiary of the DRB-Hicom group.

Yahaya said the group was allocated a 400ha site for its entire project and to date about 60ha were developed for the hotel and 120ha for a golf course.

Work on the 18-hole golf course at Pulau Popi, opposite the hotel, is currently progressing and the first nine holes are expected to be ready within six months, he said.

Other projects include construction of 300 corporate bungalows which will be implemented in stages.

He said other attractions that are being planned include a park for exotic animals, a dairy farm and a water theme park.

A park for tame animals such as deers will be built in an area close to the hotel, he said, adding that his party will discuss with the Agriculture Ministry to obtain their cooperation.

On the dairy farm, he said it might be carried out jointly with Nestle (M) Bhd.

"Nestle has shown interest and we will discuss with them," he added.

He said all the planned projects were natural attractions in line with its holiday resort concept for an environment-friendly tourist destination.

Yahaya, who also headed a consortium of 10 well-known local companies to develop Tasik Kenyir, said he is confident that the DRB-Hicom group's move to pioneer development in the area will encourage other companies to make similar investments.

The consortium, which was formed two years ago, had also set up a fund totalling RM300 million.

He said the Arab-Malaysian group led by Tan Sri Azman Hashim was also studying to open a holiday resort in the area.

Azman, who visited Tasik Kenyir last weekend, is believed to be looking for a suitable area for the project.

The 38,000ha Tasik Kenyir came into existence following the construction of the Kenyir hydro-electric dam in 1985. -- BERNAMA

SBJ SIA KM