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Ramli-Proton

SECOND PROTON PLANT A BOON FOR BERNAM VALLEY

IPOH, March 6 (Bernama) -- The impending opening of Proton's second production plant in Bernam Valley has prompted many landowners in Tanjung Malim and Behrang to convert their agricultural land for industrial use.

Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said today that the state government had so far received applications to convert 4,000ha of agricultural land to industrial status.

The area can emerge as Perak's main industrial zone as the state government would provide adequate infrastructure to meet the requirements of heavy industries, he told reporters after chairing the weekly state executive council meeting here.

He said roads leading to the industrial area would be upgraded and widened to two lanes to smoothen traffic flow.

The place would have access to about 100,000 telephone lines and 125 million litres of water per day, he said.

He said the ground-breaking ceremony for the Proton plant, to be performed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on March 23, would be a historic occasion for Perak as it marks the state's entry into the heavy and hi-tech industries.

Ramli said the supporting and downstream industries to be set up in the area under the vendor programme would transform the 1,600ha Bernam Valley into the country's biggest industrial belt.

He said the area was poised to become a self-contained "automobile city" with the availability of various facilities, including on research and development (R&D), skills training, car test-driving, residential and commercial complexes.

Ramli said Dr Mahathir would also visit the Diamond Creek housing estate near the site for the Proton plant to view the "country homes" there and the integrated urban development project in Bukit Merah, near Taiping.

He also said the Exco meeting agreed to impose regulations requiring developers to install waste water treatment systems in new housing schemes in efforts to check river pollution. -- Bernama

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