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Kelantan-Port

A RM200 MILLION WORLD CLASS PORT FOR KELANTAN

KOTA BAHARU, March 11 (Bernama) -- Kelantan's first deepwater port in Tumpat is expected to be ready for use in two years.

Agreement for construction of the RM200 million project to be carried out on a privatised basis was signed here today, between the Kuala Lumpur-based Hongkew Holdings (M) Sdn Bhd and the Kelantan government.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and his deputy Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman signed for the state, while Hongkew was represented by its chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman and director Eng Poh Hong.

Met by reporters after the signing, Abdul Aziz said, when completed, the world class port would be the major port of call for ships from Malaysia's neighbours like Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and other countries, besides catering for domestic shipping.

The Hongkew, with a RM19 million paid up capital, presently has some RM800 million investments in several interests in the country, including a cement plant in Gua Musang, now under construction.

Abdul Aziz said the port would have the capacity to handle six 20,000-tonne vessels at any one time.

Certain parts of the sea would be reclaimed for the construction of the port which would cover some 88 hectares.

"Its construction is part of the integrated project involving a total area of 260 hectares which would also cater for industries and housing," he said, adding that the port would further enhance the state development process.

"Each time when I saw the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) in the past, I asked for a port to be built in Kelantan, and today the state government's prayers has been answered," he added. -- BERNAMA

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