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CAP-Highway

CAP REGRETS HIGHLAND HIGHWAY PROJECT WILL GO AHEAD

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- The Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) regrets that the proposed highway linking Genting Highlands, Fraser's Hill and Cameron Highlands will be built.

Its president S.M Mohamed Idris said the project should not proceed as it had the potential to be an environmental catastrophe.

Although the prime minister had given an assurance that the highway would be built with minimal damage to the environment, it was still dangerous, given the nature of the project on a very highly sensitive ecosystem, he said in a statement, here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who said that the project would proceed yesterday, also asked non-governmental organisations not to be take a fanatical approach towards development of highlands.

He said the people should have access to enjoy the beautiful places in the country.

Idris said the Main Range, where the three hill resorts are located, was a vital life support system for peninsular Malaysia and highlands were vulnerable to soil erosion due to steep slopes and high rainfall.

Apart from the environmental concerns, there were also serious concerns to public safety, given the experiences of slope collapses at the North-South Highway in Gua Tempurung, Genting Highlands Road, the East-West Highway and Karak Highway, he added.

Idris also said that adopting a prudent and cautious approach towards the proposed highway should not be seen as being fanatical.

"On the contrary, the government should not be fanatical about development at the expense of ecological considerations," he added.

-- BERNAMA

RHM JK