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Ghani-Visit

GHANI: NO JOHOR TRADE MISSIONS UNTIL YEAR END

JOHOR BAHRU, Sept 19 (Bernama) -- Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said today the state government will not organise trade missions abroad for the rest of the year to reduce spending.

"We are in the midst of preparing the state budget. Anyway there are no more overseas visits for this year following the trade missions to Japan and Taiwan last August," he told reporters here.

Abdul Ghani said he would order the cancellation of a proposed visit to West Asia by Johor Islamic Religious Affairs Department (JAIJ) led by State Islamic Affairs Committee chairman Datuk Abdul Kadir Annuar.

Asked whether there was a need for him to make a follow-up visit to Japan and Taiwan to attract foreign investments, the Menteri Besar said he would refer the issue to the federal government for consideration.

He said the state government had identified the industrial group which brought foreign capital into Johor, and his visit to Japan and Taiwan from Aug 3 to 12 this year was for further discussions

"We will continue our cooperation with certain parties like Mitsubishi in Japan for direct investments in Johor. There are 12 medium industries in Japan which have plans to invest in Johor," he said.

He said the Johor government would abide by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's directive for all state governments to reduce programmes which cause excessive spending in order to strengthen the nation's economy.

He said the Johor government was reviewing the new state government administration centre project in Sungai Johor, Kota Tinggi which is known as "Johor Perdana".

What is important is the construction of a bridge over Sungai Johor worth RM300 million to connect east Johor including Pengerang, Desaru and Mersing, he said.

"The Johor Perdana project is secondary. We want to ensure first that the bridge is built," Abdul Ghani said. -- BERNAMA

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