

22/05/1997

Highlands highway: Work on EIA to start soon

Azran Aziz

TEMERLOH, Wed. - A consultant engaged by the Works Ministry will start work on the Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed highway linking three highland resorts in the Main Range in a week's time.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today the report was expected to be ready within 10 or 11 months.

"A helicopter and sophisticated equipment will be used in the course of the work," he told reporters after opening a Wanita MIC leadership seminar here. "The consultant will also determine the route of the proposed highway."

"The report will be submitted to the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry for consideration," he said. The proposed highway will link Genting Highlands, Fraser's Hill and Cameron Highlands.

The project covering 258 kilometres is estimated to cost RM1 billion while the technical study will cost RM10 million.

"Initial work has started to enable work on the EIA to start within a week," Samy Vellu said.

The highway will enable more locals to enjoy the scenic surroundings and cool weather, without having to go overseas.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad announced in February that the Government would proceed with the project.

He said any further delay could result in an increase to its cost and this could make the project uneconomical.

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