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## IPCO gets exclusive rights to study Perlis water system

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KANGAR, Sat. - The Perlis Government signed a memorandum of understanding with IPCO Constructors Sdn Bhd today giving the latter the exclusive rights to conduct studies on the development of a water supply system for coastal areas in the State.

The signing ceremony at Sungai Baru, about 15km from here, was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is on a day-long visit to the State, and Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

State Secretary Abdul Latib Omar and State Economic Planning Unit director Radhi Yusof signed on behalf of the State Government while IPCO was represented by its chairman Tan Sri Hanafiah Ahmad and managing director Charles S. Hardeman.

The MoU grants IPCO the exclusive rights to conduct the studies on a 12 million gallons per day water supply system for the coastal areas.

Upon completion of the studies, IPCO is required to submit to the State Government a detailed engineering, procurement and construction proposal leading to the award of a contract for IPCO to complete the project.

According to a Press statement from IPCO, the water system was vital for the rapid growth of the State economy and the promotion of the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle.

The company said it had earlier submitted a proposal to the State Government to develop a water supply scheme to meet the increasing demand for treated water following rapid industrial and commercial growth.

IPCO had recommended that the new treatment works be implemented in two phases with the first phase supplying about six million gallons of water per day by next year and another six million gallons per day by 2002.

Besides the Perlis project, IPCO is currently undertaking the Langkawi water project to supply 12 million gallons of treated water per day to the island.

The project is expected to be completed in June. IPCO is also constructing the Lahad Datu Water Supply scheme.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir preformed the ground breaking ceremony for the RM1.5 billion Perlis port project near Kuala Perlis.

Later, Dr Mahathir spent about 10 minutes visiting the newly-completed wall at Bukit Putih near the Malaysia-Thai border.

Developed by Kuala Lumpur-based Pashacorp Sdn Bhd, phase one of the port is expected to be ready by the year 2000 and will cover a 680ha area near the Kuala Sungai Baru-Sungai Padang.

The port will have four container berths, a sludge plant, two liquid and dry berths, an oil and gas jetty, an oil and gas farm, a dolphin berth, a container yard, an administration complex and a warehouse.

Other facilities which will be built in the second and third phases include a ferry wharf, a fish market, a public recreation area and a commercial zone.

The entire project is expected to be completed in eight to 10 years.

The Perlis port, the sixth in Peninsular Malaysia after Penang, Klang, Johor, Kuantan and Kemaman, will be able to handle 1.3 million twenty footer containers (TEUs) annually.

Pashacorp executive chairman Zamani Abdul Aziz Yeop said the port is expected to complement the Penang port by servicing the Kulim Hi-Tech Park and the industrial estates of Seberang Prai.

He said the company had appointed several foreign consultants and

contractors as part of its project team.

They include Posford (M) Sdn Bhd, Pacific Resources International, HPC Hamburg Port Consultancy and Kisan Corporation of South Korea.

Posford, which is a subsidiary of the Posford Duvivier engineering consultancy company from Britain, was engaged as the Perlis port design consultants while Pacific Resources from the British Virgin Islands acted as the project management advisor.

HPC Hamburg from Germany was the port operator while Kisan was the main contractor for the project.

The local consultants for the project include MAB Environmental Consultants Sdn Bhd, Jurukur Teguh (M) Sdn Bhd, Sealand Drillers (M) Sdn Bhd and Transnusa Development Sdn Bhd.

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