

12/03/1997

## Kelantan signs agreement for building port in Tumpat

KOTA BARU, Tues. - Kelantan is expected to become an international stopover for Indo-Chinese vessels when a port is built in Tumpat, following an agreement signed between the State Government and Hongkew Holdings (M) Sdn Bhd (Hongkew).

The signing ceremony was held at the Menteri Besar's Office at Kota Darulnaim, today.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat signed for the State Government while Hongkew chairman, Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman signed for his company.

Also present were Deputy Menteri Besar Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman and Hongkew director Eng Poh Hong.

Aziz said the company would invest RM200 million for the project to be built on an 88 hectare site in Tumpat.

Work on the port is expected to be completed in two years, after which vessels from countries like Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam would call there.

"The port can accommodate six 20,000 metric tonne vessels at a time," he said adding that the port facilities in Kelantan would help boost trade and commercial activities in the State.

Besides this, it would also benefit the company's cement factory project in Gua Musang.

Aziz said construction of the cement factory was in progress and would be completed late next year.

"We need a port to import and export coal and other goods," he added.

He said the construction of the port was part of the components involved in the development of Tumpat covering an area of about 260 hectares.

Meanwhile, Nik Aziz said the presence of the port would equip Kelantan with the infrastructure to facilitate the growth of the State's industrial sector.

"I repeatedly requested for a port in Kelantan whenever I meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said.

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