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Langkawi to have RM200m naturopathy health resort

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A HOLISTIC health resort for the rehabilitation of the sick, the first of its kind in Asia, will soon take shape in Langkawi.

Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said in Kuala Lumpur yesterday that the RM200 million resort would be adopting the German naturopathy concept and incorporating the Islamic, Chinese and Malay traditional healing techniques.

"It (the resort) will further enhance Langkawi's image as a tourist destination as it will serve the medico-tourism sector," he said.

Sanusi was speaking to reporters after witnessing the signing of the memorandum of understanding between Promto Bhd and Healthcare Group for Rehabilitation of Germany to set up Langkawi Healthcare Sdn Bhd.

Langkawi Healthcare will be developing the resort.

Sanusi said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had given the blessings and identified a suitable area on the island for the project.

Promto chairman Datuk Hanafi Ramli said the joint venture company, to be set up by the three parties, is expected to commence operations in two years.

He said the shareholdings of the joint venture partners have yet to be finalised, although the Malaysian party would hold the majority stake.

Promto, which was listed on the second board of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange, is involved in the manufacture and trading of electric fittings, plastic pipes, reinforced concrete pipes, culverts, concrete poles and engineering activities.

The company may have to raise capital through rights issue, bonds issue or bank borrowings, Hanafi said.

The chief executive director of the International Health Group for Rehabilitation, Wolfgang Schmidt, was also present.

He first developed the concept known as the "Island of Naturopathy" last year.

It combines high-tech medicine, outpatient rehabilitation medicine together with meditation techniques, spiritual healing, herbal medicine and natural health cooking.

It also has traditional medicine and Ayurveda (Indian naturopathy) for its outpatient centres which serve the rehabilitation of cases involving orthopaedics and sport injuries and cardiology with exercise, stress ECG and controlled exercise programme for heart patients.

Schmidt was involved in modernising 49 spas with 106 rehab-hospitals for the German Ministry of Health and has managed 20 rehab-hospitals for 50,000 patients and 500,000 outpatients.

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