

19 APR 1997

Mahathir-Reclamation

MAHATHIR BRIEFED ON PROPOSED WORLD'S BIGGEST RECLAMATION PROJECT

ALOR SETAR, April 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today briefed on the proposed project to reclaim 12,800 hectares of land from the sea off the coast here.

The project, the biggest ever in the world, will run parallel to the state's coast for 100 kilometres and will cost RM30,000 million.

Scheduled for completion by the year 2020, the reclaimed land will site the new industrial site in northern peninsula.

Dr Mahathir was briefed on the project by National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (Nahrim), the project's consultant, and Samudera Baru Darul Aman Sdn Bhd, one of the nine companies which has submitted a proposal on the development of the project.

Present at the briefing, held at Wisma Darul Aman here, were Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, State Executive Councillors, members of the Kedah State Legislative Council and heads of government departments.

The project, a brainchild of Sanusi, will provide the land needed for housing and small towns without resorting to levelling hills or converting padi land for the purpose.

Nahrim Director-General, Prof Datuk Dr Abdul Aziz Ibrahim said the proposed project will be one kilometre from the coast and will have nine islands to be linked to the mainland either by tunnels or bridges.

The project will have no negative effect on the environment while preventing coastal erosion and protecting the state's mangrove swamp, he said.

Dr Abdul Aziz said sand for the reclamation project will come from the sea using the hydrofill technique.

Meanwhile, Samudera Baru chairman Azizan Abdul Rahman said it is a viable project which will speed up Kedah's industrialisation process.

He said among the projects proposed are an airport, a coastal highway to Perlis in the north and Butterworth, Pulau Pinang to the South, and a commercial port as well as fisheries.

Dr Mahathir was also briefed on the proposed commercial port to be sited at Pulau Bunting as well as a water world project in Jitra.

-- BERNAMA

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