

15 MAR 1997

Mahathir-Port

MAHATHIR PERFORMS GROUND-BREAKING FOR PORT PROJECT

KANGAR, March 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is on a one-day working visit to Perlis, performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the RM750-million port project in Sungai Baharu, near here, today.

The project is developed by Pashacorp Sdn Bhd, which signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently with three multinational companies from Britain, South Korea and Germany.

The companies would provide their services and expertise in the construction, designing and operations of the port.

Construction of the port is expected to be ready in the year 2000 while other facilities would be completed in stages between 10 and 12 years.

The port, among others, would have four container terminal wharves, two wharves for dry and liquid bulk cargo, wharves for oil tankers, storage facilities for gas and fuel, bunker services and warehouse.

He said the recipient of the award must have achieved excellence in specific fields for the country and gained recognition from within or outside the country.

Dr Mahathir's selection for the award was an appropriate choice, he added.

Dr Mahathir, in his speech, said the award was an honour and a charge to fulfil the high hopes of the people.

He said the country's success was due to the support and cooperation of the people and the leaders.

"We in Malaysia are lucky because not only is Malaysia stable and peaceful but the political stability enables the leaders to plan development programmes for the benefit of the society," he said.

Hence, all parties had a responsibility to safeguard the justice and peace in Malaysia, he added.

The port would also have wharves for berthing of passenger ferries.

After the ceremony, Dr Mahathir witnessed a MoU signing between the state government and IPCO Constructors Sdn Bhd in a separate function also in Sungai Baharu.

The MoU was to enable IPCO Constructors to conduct a study for the supply of 54 million litres of water a day under the Perlis Coastal Area Development Project.

The findings of the study which would be submitted to the state government would contain proposals on the implementation, construction and engineering aspects of the project.

State Secretary Abdul Latip Omar signed the MoU on behalf of the state government while IPCO Constructors was represented by its chairman Tan Sri Hanafiah Ahmad.

Later, Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, left for Bukit Putih in Kuala Perlis to inspect the newly-erected security wall at the Malaysia-Thai border.

The Prime Minister spent about 15 minutes at the border before joining the people for lunch at Dewan Warisan, here.

Earlier, the Raja of Perlis conferred the Royal Excellence Award (Tuanku Raja Perlis) on Dr Mahathir at Balai Rong Seri, Istana Arau, and attended a closed-door state security briefing at the State Operations Room, here.

This evening, Dr Mahathir would visit the Malaysia-Thai border at Mata Ayer before addressing a people's gathering at the Fisheries Development

Authority of Malaysia complex in Padang Besar. -- BERNAMA
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