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MALAYSIAN EXPERTS TO INSPECT SITE FOR PROTON CAR PLANT IN ANDHRA20PRADESH

NEW DELHI, May 19 (Bernama) -- A panel of experts from Malaysia will soon visit the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh for feasibility studies and to inspect the site for the location of a proposed Proton car plant.

Speaking to pressmen in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, just back from a visit to Malaysia and Singapore, said the State Government had offered the alternative sites of Visakhapatnam and Kakinada for the location of the plant, an offer the Malaysian Government had accepted in principle.

The Indian Government, he said, had also given its clearance for the plant.

On his suggestion, the Indian Industry Ministry had sent a letter to the Malaysian Government expressing willingness to allow Visakhapatnam as the location for the plant, he added.

The letter was delivered to the Malaysian Government by the Indian High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur, Naidu said, adding that the Malaysian Government is keen to complete all formalities at the earliest time.

Naidu's delegation signed an agreement and five memoranda of understanding (MoUs) during its visit to Kuala Lumpur.

Naidu also told newsmen that the biggest obstacle to the development and growth of India is the people's mindset.

He said if the country is to develop into a modern state it should have a national vision like what Malaysia has -- Vision 2020.

He said: "If there is one lesson I have learned in Malaysia, it is the importance of a national vision communicated effectively to the people. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad's ability to infuse his people with his Vision 2020 has given Malaysians tremendous confidence to rise to the challenge."

The Chief Minister, who as the Chairman of the Steering Committee of the United Front has considerable clout with the Gujral Government, is shocked at the damage caused to the investment climate by the government's vacillation over projects.

He was all praise for the devotion, commitment, discipline and honesty of the people of Malaysia and Singapore.

He said the construction of the 1000km North-South Highway in Malaysia was to have been completed over seven years but it was completed one and a half years ahead of schedule.

The State Finance Minister P. Ashok Gajpati Raju, who was a member of Naidu's delegation to Malaysia, liked the highway so much that he cancelled his air ticket to Singapore and went there by road instead.

The delegation was also impressed by the manner the ports functioned in the two countries.

The Chief Minister said that the turnaround time for even huge ships at tve Klang ports in Malaysia is a mere 20 minutes, while in Visakhapatnam it is 10 to 15 days.

Naidu said Malaysia, which has a population of 20 million, could be a good model of development for Andhra Pradesh.

During his week-long visit to the two countries, Naidu had ample opportunity to study their policies and programmes which have ushered in economic prosperity. -- BERNAMA

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