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Khalil-Highway

PAHANG APPROVES EAST COAST HIGHWAY ALIGNMENT

KUANTAN, April 2 (Bernama) -- The Pahang government today approved the alignment for the construction of the East Coast Highway, paving the way for the launch of the project in June.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob told reporters after chairing the weekly state executive council meeting here today that the alignment covered the route from Karak to Jabor, Terengganu.

He was told that matters relating to the project management had been completed and were awaiting the award of the contract, he said.

The project to build the 336km highway linking Karak to Kuantan and Kuala Terengganu will involve a 33-year concession at a cost of RM2.7 billion.

The federal government has appointed three consortia -- Malaysia Mining Corporation (MMC), Malaysia Thai Development (MTD) and United Engineers Malaysia (UEM) -- to handle the project.

Khalil also said that the construction of a railway linking Kuantan, Kemaman and Kertih in Terengganu would speed up the growth of the three regions as centres for the petrochemical industries.

He said the project, to be undertaken in collaboration with Petronas and KTM Berhad, would start as soon as possible to establish two-way communication to transport raw materials needed by the industry.

The state government did not expect any problem in the acquisition of land for the railway project, he added.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said recently that the railway would not only transport raw materials but also passengers and in the long run link the railways from the west to the east coast of the peninsula. -- BERNAMA

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