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Perak to expedite Proton City project by issuing land title

TANJUNG MALIM, Tues. - Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said today the State Government would issue the title for the 1,600-hectare land at Ulu Behrang in order to expedite the RM10 billion integrated Proton City project.

He said the State would process the application as it did not want to cause further delay to the developer, Proton City Development Corporation Sdn Bhd.

"We will issue the land title as soon as possible, as any delay will incur additional costs for the developer," he told reporters after attending a briefing and touring the project site.

Also present were the developer's general manager Zahari Abdul Ghani, project manager Roslan Razak and the car project director Abdul Wahab Khalid.

Under the Proton City project, the developer will build a car manufacturing plant, car component producing factories, housing for staff and public, and an eco-friendly recreational area.

It is learnt the delay in issuing the land title arose because part of the land for the Proton City project belonged to the Veterinary Department.

The State Government had to identify a choice land elsewhere for the Federal agency before it could alienate it to the developer.

As a result, the developer could not sell houses and factory lots to car component manufacturers.

On March 26 last year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the car project, the second manufacturing plant for Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd.

Under the first phase of the Proton City project, the car manufacturing plant and other support industries are scheduled to take shape by 1999.

Ramli expressed confidence that the car assembly plant could start production as scheduled although earthworks has been delayed by four months.

"I was told that the developers are putting in extra effort to make up for lost time."

Ramli also said a RM115 million project to upgrade the existing road from Proton City to the Federal Route One and the North-South Expressway would start soon.

The project would be completed in late 1999.

Earlier, Zahari who briefed Ramli on the entire project said that the car manufacturer would produce 250,000 cars in 1999 and one million vehicles in 2010.

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