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Sanusi: Kedah to approve two reclamation proposals

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THE State Government will approve two of the nine reclamation packages proposed by Kuala Lumpur-based Samudera Baru Darul Aman Sdn Bhd, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid said yesterday.

"We have agreed in principle to approve the two packages at the Kuala Muda rivermouth," he told reporters after opening Popular Book Company's shop at City Plaza.

He said it will be formally approved at the Exco meeting today, but it is not known which of the nine packages will be approved.

Samudera Baru Darul Aman had submitted a master plan proposing to reclaim the entire 100km coastline of Kedah.

It proposes to reclaim 16,300ha of land consisting of nine main islands. Work on two islands of 2,800ha and 3,500ha respectively shall be implemented under Phase 1.

The 2,800ha island will incorporate world class infrastructural facilities such as the integrated multi-modal transportation hub which consists of an international airport, a deepwater seaport as well as an express rail link to the mainland.

To complement the transportation hub, a 3,500ha island will be created simultaneously to house sophisticated heavy engineering, petrochemical and shipyard related industries.

The remaining seven islands are planned for aquaculture, fisheries, commercial and residential activities.

However, Sanusi said the company must obtain the Federal Government's approval for its plan to develop the international airport and a deep sea port at one of the islands.

The Menteri Besar said the State Government had been holding back the proposals for the reclamation project to get Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's views on it.

"And the Prime Minister is happy with the project," said Sanusi. Dr Mahathir was briefed on the project during his visit to the State on Saturday.

Sanusi said the State Government would also be examining other proposals for the reclamation project.

"We have given two packages to Samudera Baru Darul Aman and we will consider other proposals for other packages."

Samudera Baru is a new company controlled by chairman Azizan Abdul Rahman and Dennis Yii Chee Meng, who is executive chairman of Hock Seng Lee Bhd. The company is capitalised at RM1 million.

Sanusi said National Hydraulic Research Institute's study on the reclamation project concluded that it was feasible.

It had also recommended that the reclamation should be carried out 500 metres from the shore.

"So those who proposed to reclaim from the shore can consider their proposals to have been turned down," he said.

The Menteri Besar also said the reclamation project should be seen as an environmental project which would solve the problem of erosion along the coast and protect marine life and the mangrove.

Sanusi said the State Exco would also approve the proposed development of Pulau Bunting by SKS Venture Sdn Bhd.

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