

29 JUN 1997

Sanusi-Airport

SANUSI UPBEAT ON THIRD AIRPORT SITED IN KEDAH

LANGKAWI, June 29 (Bernama) -- Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid has welcomed the federal government's decision to build a third international airport in Kedah.

He said the state government thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for their strong support for the airport to be built on a reclaimed island off the Kuala Muda coast.

This augured well for Kedah which will have two international airports, the other in tourist haven Langkawi, he told reporters after opening the Koperasi Pembangunan Daerah Langkawi annual general meeting here today.

Anwar announced yesterday that Kedah would be the site for the new international airport.

In his speech, Sanusi said a "book village" would be set up in Lubuk Semilang in Langkawi with unique features unlike those found in similar book villages worldwide.

He said the village slated to be opened in November would be situated at a foothill with cascading waterfalls on both sides, a river snaking across and cutting a picturesque view for the visitors to enjoy the natural beauty.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to open the village, the world's seventh book village which would further promote Langkawi as a paradise for book lovers.

Sanusi anticipated some one million tourists and book-lovers around the world to visit the village which would also showcase as an Asian book distribution centre.

The centre would be promoted around the world through advertisements and inter-village cooperation with its foreign sister villages, he said.

He said six buildings under construction would be completed in August, one of which would be given to Koperasi Pembangunan Daerah Langkawi in time for the 1997 Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA '97).

Sanusi led a team of officials involved in the "book village" project to Europe recently on a fact-finding mission on how the villages were run in Belgium and Wales. -- BERNAMA

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