

29/04/1997

State seeking 10pc equity in MEC City project

THE State Government is still waiting for the outcome of a discussion between the Federal Government and Malaysia Electric Corporation Bhd on its request for a 10 per cent equity in the RM4 billion MEC City project.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob said yesterday that the two parties were still discussing the matter.

"We are confident they will oblige," he told the State Assembly.

MEC City, the electrical appliances capital of Malaysia, is being developed by MEC Bhd on a 1,200-hectare site in Gambang. It was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on March 17.

MEC Bhd, a subsidiary of public-listed Kuala Lumpur Industries Holding Bhd, produces electrical appliances under a Malaysian brand name.

The Menteri Besar said MEC Bhd's actual investment in the project would depend on the facilities to be made available.

On whether the State Government would approve more land for the company for the project's expansion, he said it was still too early to look into it.

To a supplementary question by Datuk Ayub Teh (BN-Luit), he said the interest of small and medium-scale industry operators in the project would not be neglected.

"Included in the development plans is a provision for a vendor programme so that SMIs can also benefit from it."

Khalil said the project did not depend on a large workforce as the company would be using a lot of automation and high technology.

"The question of labour shortage does not arise."

The Menteri Besar also told the State Assembly that the gold mining activities in Raub would provide a lot of economic opportunities to locals.

"The sector will employ some 400 skilled and semi-skilled workers," he said in response to a question by Syed Ali Syed Mohamad (BN-Batu Talam).

He said the activities would provide RM60 million worth of contracts in the development of plants, infrastructure and earthworks.

Khalil said residents could also seek contracts in supplying machinery and providing accommodation to workers.

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