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Tongkah moves into making of garbage bins

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TONGKAH Holdings Bhd expects to produce about 190,000 garbage bins in 1997 through Tongkah-OTTO (M) Sdn Bhd, a joint venture company with OTTO Holding International of Germany.

"Tongkah will be holding the majority stake of 51 per cent in Tongkah-OTTO which has a paid-up capital of RM2.5m. The joint venture company will be spending RM35m to build a plant to manufacture garbage bins," said Tongkah executive chairman Mokhzani Mahathir.

He told reporters yesterday after a signing ceremony for the joint venture that the plant, to be located at the new Bukit Tengah Industrial Park in Penang, is expected to be completed in March. It is expected to be fully operational in May.

The plant is also located next to Tongkah Moulding Technologies, a high-tech plastic injection moulding concern.

Responding to a question, Mokhzani said Tongkah's subsidiary, THB Industries Bhd, has applied to the relevant authorities for a listing on the main board of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange and hopes to obtain the approval in a couple of months.

He added that two of its other subsidiaries, the names of which were not disclosed, also qualify for listing but Tongkah does not plan to list them yet.

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Ting Chew Peh, who witnessed the signing, said the Government is still negotiating with the consortium of four companies for the privatization of solid waste in the country on their service charges.

The consortium comprises Hicom Bhd, MMC, Consec Gali Sdn Bhd and Rumpun Hijau Sdn Bhd.

Ting said as soon as the Government has completed the negotiations with the consortium, it will send a draft proposal to the Cabinet on new legislation for solid waste management in the country.

"The earliest this matter can be brought to Parliament in October this year. The tariffs for solid waste management will be reasonable and not burden the masses," he said.

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