

Petronas to spearhead multi-million ringgit rail project

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in Penang

PETROLIAM Nasional Bhd (Petronas) will soon undertake a multi-million ringgit railway project linking Kerteh in Terengganu and Kuantan in Pahang to facilitate transportation of raw materials for industrial needs, Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad announced yesterday.

Mokhtar said in Penang that the project would benefit industries in both towns, including downstream activities related to petroleum and steel manufacture.

Mokhtar said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would soon announce details of the project.

"With the rail link, goods from both towns can be exported through Kemaman Port and Kuantan Port in ~~Tedeng~~, he said.

Mokhtar told reporters this after witnessing the signing of a memorandum of action between the Terengganu Skill Development Centre (Tesdec) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang.

Under the agreement, the university will help Tesdec with skills training in the fields of plastic technology and metal machining.

It is understood that the Terengganu state government expects the rail link to be ready within two years.

The service, which will initially transport cargo, is expected to link up with the proposed Kuantan-Mentakab railway line.

Mokhtar also commented on the proposed RM3.6bil east coast highway project linking Karak to Terengganu, saying that an agreement would soon be signed with the consortium undertaking the project.

"We are happy the project is going ahead. However, we hope the toll will not burden motorists," he said.

Mokhtar added that the Terengganu state government was willing to help the consortium by allowing it to pay the costs of land acquisition later as much of the road would pass through state land.