

18 APR 1998

Mahathir-MoU

DR MAHATHIR WITNESSES SIGNING OF TWO MOU

JOHOR BAHRU, April 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is on a two-day working visit to Johor today witnessed the signing of two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The first MoU was between Pertanian Johor Tenggara (PJT), a subsidiary of Johor Tenggara Oil Palm Berhad (JTOP), and Teknik Segar Sdn Bhd for joint promotion and development of Technology Park at Ladang Sisek, Kota Tinggi.

The two companies intend to develop the park in stages as a Biotechnology Park with another party.

The park will be the centre for biotechnological research and will have a biotechnology institute, a research laboratory and an experimental park.

It will also provide infrastructures for biotechnological research for tropical plants.

The MoU was signed by JTOP chairman Datuk Ismail Hashim and Teknik Segar chairman Datuk Shahabudin Shafie.

The other MoU involved Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Equiventures Sdn Bhd (ESB) and a French-based Suez Lyonnaise Des Eaux (SLDE).

It is for cooperation in Research and Development (R&D) in the management of water resources as well as a project to optimise the delivery of raw water to Sungai Johor and Sungai Layang plants in Kota Tinggi.

ESB is a local company given the 20-year concession from 1992 to undertake Johor government's water projects.

It has invested more than RM600 million so far to construct and enhance pipeline system and treatment plants, including distribution pipes and reserve tanks.

Both plants are capable of producing some 370 million litres of water daily, meeting 80 per cent demand for clean water in Johor Baharu, Kulai, Pasir Gudang and Gelang Patah areas.

ESB was represented by its managing director Datuk Mohammad Ridzuan Salleh while UTM by its vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Ahmad Zaharuddin Idrus. SLDE was represented by its president for Asia Pacific, Martin Negve.

Present at the signing ceremony were the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and State Executive Councillors.

Dr Mahathir later toured the area around the Johor Baharu Duty Free Complex, which he will open this evening, before boarding a ferry to view the Tebrau Strait and Johor Causeway.

-- BERNAMA

RAM MKO ABG