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Mokhtar-Highway

EAST COAST HIGHWAY ROUTE IDENTIFIED

KUALA TERENGGANU, July 18 (Bernama) -- Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said today the state government has identified the East Coast Highway route from Karak in Pahang to Chendering in Terengganu via Jabor and is now surveying the land.

He said the route on the Terengganu side stretched from Cendering to Bukit Payong, Ajil, Bukit Besi before proceeding to Jabor on the border with Pahang (Kuantan).

"We have no problem in land acquisition because most of the land for the route is government land," he told reporters after launching the Terengganu Islamic Foundation's Q-Day celebration, here.

The 336km highway costing RM3 billion is expected to start this year. The concession to build it has been given to a consortium led by Malaysia Mining Corporation (MMC).

It is expected to be ready in three years and will serve as a catalyst for economic growth in the east coast corridor, especially in Terengganu.

Yesterday, Works Minister Datuk Seri S.samy Vellu said the government had received Wan mokhtar's proposal that the highway be built simultaneously in both states and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had directed the Economic Planning Unit to look into the proposal.

Wan Mokhtar said he discussed the matter with MMC in Kuala Lumpur recently and agreed to start the construction simultaneously from Karak in Pahang and Chendering in Terengganu.

He said the state government was also prepared to recommend the Terengganu Tengah Development Authority (Ketengah) as a contractor for the project because it would supply the granite need for the construction.

"This is to lighten the burden of the developer during the current economic downturn," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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