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Sanusi-Project

LADA DECIDES TO SCRAP RM3.2 MLN ROAD PROJECT

LANGKAWI, July 25 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) has decided to scrap the RM3.2 million road project linking Padang Gaong to Makam Mahsuri on the resort island.

LADA would instead undertake a project to deepen the mouth of Sungai Pantai Kok which would benefit fishermen, the agency's joint-chairman Tan Sri Sanusi Junid told reporters after chairing its board meeting here today.

He said the road project was presented as a straight road at a recent state executive council meeting, but he learnt that it was to be tabled as a winding road at today's board meeting.

"We are not experts in road building but when we see the discrepancy we should get rid of the project after being wrongly advised," he said.

Sanusi, who is Kedah Menteri Besar, said he was happy that LADA general manager Datuk Abdul Halil Mutalib also felt that the road was unnecessary.

Abdul Halil, when met later, said the road was originally proposed in 1996 but LADA deferred it because it was not important in the overall development of the island.

Meanwhile, Sanusi said LADA planned to unveil a new tourism product called "rent a beach" to revive poor tourist arrivals on the island.

It involves selecting several of the 99 surrounding islands and renting their beachfront to tourists for family or company activities. LADA will provide facilities such as public toilets and jetties to link the beaches to boats that will ferry tourists from Langkawi.

Sanusi said another programme being considered was mountain climbing exercise where tourists could go rock climbing on the island's peaks.

He also said that LADA would extend the road leading to Gunung Raya, to enable tourists to climb the island's highest peak.

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent statement that the country was embarking on massive infrastructural development to boost economic activities, Sanusi said Kedah would follow suit by building more jetties and related projects.

"I believe many investors will be attracted as the projects can bring strong returns in the long-term," Sanusi said.

However, he declined to comment when asked on the possibility that the Kedah government would now support the RM30 billion land reclamation project for the proposed northern region international airport.

Sanusi also announced that Abdul Halil had been appointed to head LADA's tender committee to oversee approvals of tender allocations.

-- BERNAMA

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