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KHALIL-CEMENT/BM

PAHANG CEMENT TO EXPORT ITS PRODUCTS TO INDOCHINA

KUANTAN, June 11 (Bernama) -- Pahang Cement Sdn Bhd which has the capacity to produce 1.2 million tonnes of cement a year will export its products to countries like Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia apart from utilising it locally, said Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob today.

These countries would be the best markets for Pahang Cement as the Kuantan Port is located near these countries, he told reporters after a visit to the cement plant to observe the preparations taking place in conjunction with the plant's official opening here.

Prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would officially open the plant on Saturday in conjunction with his visit to the state beginning tomorrow.

The prime minister's visit would begin with him closing the Piala Perdana Badminton 1998 tournament at the SUKPA stadium, Bandar Indera Mahkota here. Dr Mahathir would also attend a dinner "Lambaian Teratai" which is held in conjunction with the tournament.

The day after the official opening of the plant, Dr Mahathir is expected to visit the nearby Felde Bukit Sagu 2 at a meet the rakyat session.

The RM700 million cement plant located within a 80.92 ha area, is a joint venture between the Pahang state government and YTL Corporation Bhd, each with a 50 percent equity.

The plant which began production in November last year, has produced a total of 220,000 tonnes cement for consumption in the east coast, Johor and Kuala Lumpur.

"The potential for the cement market is there, especially when the economy is revived," Khalil said.

Raw material for the hi-tech plant is obtained from a limestone hill located near the plant and it is expected that the supply could last up to 70 years.

The project was first mooted in the 1970s by the then prime minister the late Tun Abdul Razak, based on the importance of having an integrated cement factory plant in the East Coast development corridor.

Pahang Cement was set up on Aug 5, 1971 by the Pahang state government to manage the project. The joint venture agreement between the state government and YTL Cement Bhd was signed in 1993. -- BERNAMA

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