

12/06/1998

Pahang Cement eyes export markets

Azran Aziz

DESPITE a slowdown in the construction sector, Pahang Cement Sdn Bhd does not anticipate any difficulty in looking for markets for its product.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob said yesterday that this was because the cement plant in Bukit Sagu, about 50km from Kuantan, was also orientated towards the export market.

He said Pahang Cement, a 50:50 joint venture between the State Government and YTL Cement Bhd, was eyeing the Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos markets.

The Pahang Government's equity is held by Pasdec Corporation Sdn Bhd (33.3 per cent) and State Secretary Incorporated (16.7 per cent).

As for the domestic market, Khalil said there would be continuous demand for the product as it was the only cement plant serving the eastern industrial corridor.

Speaking to reporters after checking on the preparations for the official opening of the RM700 million cement plant by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow, Khalil said the cement plant was a viable venture.

The cement plant project was mooted in the early 1970s by the then Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein. Pahang Cement Sdn Bhd was incorporated on Aug 5, 1971 by the State Government.

The joint-venture agreement to implement the project was signed between the State Government and YTL Cement in 1993.

Limestone deposits around the Bukit Sagu plant are enough to cater for the company's operation for the next 70 years, if it continues to operate on a single production line.

The plant, which has a capacity of 1.2 million tonnes per annum, was commissioned in July last year.

(END)