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Product with 95pc local content

THE portland cement produced by Pahang Cement Sdn Bhd at its integrated plant in Bukit Sagu, Kuantan, contains 95 per cent local content.

YTL Cement Bhd's director of operations (cement) Tan Check Hong said yesterday that except for gypsum, the other ingredients were sourced locally.

He said the company imported gypsum, an integral raw material in cement production, from Thailand.

Limestone heated with a mixture of additives produces clinker, which is then mixed with gypsum and other materials to produce cement.

Tan said this at a briefing on the operations of the Pahang Cement's plant, located about 50km from Kuantan.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officially open the plant, a 50:50 joint venture between the Pahang Government and YTL Cement Bhd, today.

Tan said the plant uses coal to heat the kiln as it "was still the cheapest source of energy".

The company has adopted "Cop Orang Kuat" as its brandname.

Tan said the company believed that the Pahang Cement plant was viable venture despite the economic problems.

"The plant covers about 80ha and is adjacent to limestone and clay quarries worked by Pahang Cement under long-term leases," he said.

He said under agreements signed on Sept 4, 1995, RM560 million in credit facilities were raised for the project.

"The financing of the project marked another milestone in infrastructure financing in the country as it was the first time that a cement plant obtained financing for a 15-year tenure strictly on a project finance basis," he said.

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