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Development-Kubang Pasu (News Focus)

KUBANG PASU ENJOYS RAPID DEVELOPMENT

By: Abdul Halim Taib

ALOR SETAR, 26 Nov (Bernama) -- Kubang Pasu district in Kedah will continue to enjoy continued rapid development especially in the Bukit Kayu Hitam and Bandar Baru Darul Aman industrial zones, said district officer Datuk Mohamed Farouk Ibrahim.

Apart from the availability of water supply and electricity for the people in the rural areas, he said development in various fields such as education, social, religious and economic activities are also seen in the district.

In Kubang Pasu, simultaneous development is seen in both towns and kampungs. Development is evident in towns such as Bukit Kayu Hitam, Sintok, Changlun, Jitra, Bandar Darul Aman, Kepala Batas, Tunjang, Napoh, Padang Sera and Kodiang.

Farouk said the latest project in the district, started in October, is the US-based Boeing's aircraft parts plant being built at the Bukit Kayu Hitam industrial zone.

He said foreign investors are attracted, especially to the district, due to their confidence in the able leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in maintaining political and economic stability in Malaysia.

He said the Boeing plant, on a 12.2ha site, would provide thousands of employment opportunities to the people, especially local residents.

He said the plant, with an initial investment of RM150 million, will be the biggest aircraft parts producer in south east Asia.

The project is a joint venture between two US companies -- Boeing and Hexcel Corporation -- and two local partners -- Sime Darby Bhd and Naluri Bhd.

Farouk said another project which could benefit the economy and open employment opportunities is to make Changlun the supply centre for natural gas from the joint development area in the Gulf of Siam.

Natural gas from the 7,250 sq km area, in which Malaysia and Thailand have overlapping claims, is supplied to both countries.

Farouk said establishing the Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) also reflected the Prime Minister's interest in the education field.

UUM, built on a 926ha site in Sintok, cost RM580 million.

He said UUM was given an additional allocation of RM77.1 million in 1999 for the building of an academic block, lecture halls and hostels to accommodate 600 students.

-- BERNAMA

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