

29 DEC 1999  
Reclamation  
MELAKA TO RECLAIM 3,000 HA FROM SEA

MELAKA, Dec 29 (Bernama) -- Melaka is to reactivate long-stalled sea reclamation of 2,835 ha upon approval of the environment impact assessment reports for the 19 projects involved.

Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam said he had directed all agencies to assist in alleviating anticipated problems especially of people affected by the projects.

"Uppermost is that all these projects should not cause flooding and environmental degradation," he told reporters after chairing the weekly state executive council meeting here today.

Reclamation was supposed to cover the coastline stretching from Merlimau to Kuala Linggi but so far only 10 per cent had been carried out between Bandar Hilir and Tengkerah here.

Mohamed Ali said authorities would allow contractors to commence work only after they have completed hydrological and hydrographical studies, among the 25 conditions.

The proposed reclamation would also involve creating 13 man-made islands to minimise adverse effects on the environment especially for the protection of coastal mangrove swamps.

Mohamed Ali also disclosed that he would assume the presidency of the Melaka municipal council, taking over from a civil servant and the move was endorsed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The move, which will see council president Haris Hassan becoming deputy council president, was to streamline and consolidate the running of the municipal council, he added.

-- BERNAMA  
MOZ RYN