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PAHANG WANTS ITS AGENCIES TO TAKE PART IN HIGHWAY PROJECT

KUANTAN, Jan 29 (Bernama) -- The Pahang government wants its agencies and companies to take part in the East Coast Highway project, Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Hasan Arifin said today.

He said if the consortium undertaking the project agreed to the proposal, agencies and public-listed companies controlled by the state government would be asked to be actively involved in the construction of the highway.

"The building of the highway is important as it will be a catalyst for economic growth not just in Pahang but the East Coast as a whole," he told reporters at his office.

Hasan said he was happy that the East Coast Highway was not among the 20 highway projects that would be shelved following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that no new highways would be built unless the people wanted them and were willing to pay toll.

"It is now up to the local contractors to participate in the project and the state government will support that had the capacity to implement it," he said.

The 340km highway from Karak to Kuala Terengganu is expected to cost RM3.6 billion, with the 175 km stretch from Karak to Kuantan alone accounting for RM2 billion.

The consortium is made up of Malaysia Mining Corporation Bhd (which holds a 40 per cent stake), United engineers Malaysia (30 per cent) and Malaysia Thai Development Capital (30 per cent).

-- BERNAMA

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