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MAHATHIR-PROJECT

RM2 BILLION PROJECT TO BOOST TOURISM IN JOHOR

By E. Sivabalan

JOHOR BAHRU, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Konsortium Hujung Tanah Sdn Berhad today signed an agreement with the Johor government to undertake the RM2 billion Tanjung Puteri Development (TPD) project, a new township with the latest telecommunications technology and business infrastructure at Malaysia's southern tip, here.

The signing ceremony for the privatisation and development agreement was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who arrived here yesterday for a two-day official visit to Johor.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman signed on behalf of the state government, while Konsortium Hujung Tanah was represented by its managing director, Datuk Yahya A. Jalil.

The TPD project, designed to provide an integrated development incorporating residential, commercial and recreational facilities, is conceived as a continuation of the catalyst created by the proposed Southern International Gateway (SIG) project.

The development introduces a "City in a Garden" concept supported by infrastructure to create an upmarket lifestyle while incorporating Malaysian heritage characteristics, said Yahya at the signing ceremony.

The project, covering an area of 59.5 hectares, out of which 54.5ha will be reclaimed land, is situated on the eastern side of the SIG project, stretching 1.2km from the Johor Baharu Inner Ring Road interchange at Jalan Ibrahim Sultan to Stulang Laut Duty Free Zone.

This site is about 2km from the Johor Baharu city centre, 25km from Pasir Gudang and 30km from Senai airport.

Yahya said the TPD project, to be developed in stages until 2005, would create a new waterfront and a tourist landmark of international standing.

"The agreement today marks the beginning of a venture that promises to bring to Johor Baharu positive changes for the new millennium," he added.

Yahya said for investors, professionals, retailers and ordinary residents of Johor Baharu, the TPD would open new opportunities in the form of commercial, leisure and maritime activities along the shoreline.

"This will spur development along the fringes of the project area."

The project, he added, would address the urgent need for improvement of the transportation links and improve traffic dispersal here.

In conjunction with the signing ceremony, a time capsule containing Dr Mahathir's message to the country's future generations was placed in an obelisk, which was specially constructed in the grounds of the Sultan Ibrahim building here.

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