

06 JUN 2001

Ali-city

CITY STATUS SOUGHT FOR MELAKA HISTORICAL CITY

MELAKA, June 6 (Bernama) -- The state government is preparing a working paper to support its application to the federal government for city status for the Melaka Historical City.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam said the working paper, expected to be completed in three months, was being prepared by State Secretary Datuk Abd Aziz Mohd Yusof with the cooperation of the State Economic Planning Unit (UPEN) and the Melaka Historical City Municipal Council (MPMBB).

"We feel the application is in line with the minimum requirement where a municipal council must have an annual revenue of over RM80 million and a population of over 300,000," he told reporters after chairing the weekly State Executive Council meeting at Seri Negeri, Air Keroh, here today.

He said the city status would enable the local authorities to get a bigger allocation from the Housing and Local Government Ministry, besides providing more basic facilities to the population.

"The matter has also been conveyed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and once the town has been upgraded to a city, it will be able to attract more tourists," he said.

Ali said application would also be made to upgrade the status of the Alor Gajah District Council (MDAG) to that of a municipal council since it had met the requirement of an annual revenue of RM10 million and a population of 100,000.

"Efforts are also being made to intensify the development of the Jasin District to enable it to be upgrade as a municipality in future," he said.

He said the state government hoped to obtain the required status for both local authorities next year.

On his meeting with several investors from Singapore at his office yesterday, Ali said they wanted to invest in various sectors in particular the small and medium scale industries (SMIs) in high technology.

"We will sign several memoranda of understanding during my visit to Singapore next month in conjunction with the Melaka Tourism Fest and promotions of the state's industrial sites," he said.

He said the state would like to assure potential investors that their applications for industrial sites would be approved within two weeks.

Ali said Singapore's investment especially in SMIs was expected at RM30 million and would provide many jobs for the people.

"The political stability in the state has increased investors' confidence to continue to invest here," he said.

On the decision of Dr Mahathir to act as Finance Minister and Minister of Special Functions following the resignation of Tun Daim Zainuddin, he said the prime minister had done it before this.

"This is to facilitate duties and ensure the smooth running of these ministries during the transition process before he appoints a candidate for the post," he said.

On Daim's resignation, he said it was loss to the nation since Daim and the prime minister were trying to solve the current economic problems.

"But he can continue to contribute ideas, even from outside the cabinet and government, just as before he joined the government," he said.

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