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Co-op confident PM will consent to use of pet name for project

ALOR STAR, Fri. - Koperasi Pekan Rabu Alor Star Bhd which is managing Pekan Rabu is confident Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will give his consent for the bazaar to be renamed Che Det Mall.

"If redevelopment of Pekan Rabu and its surrounding areas are properly done and managed and the traders meet the desired standards, we believe our proposal to use the name Che Det will be approved," co-operative chairman Azmi Shahab said today.

"We will ensure that the traders live up to the standards befitting a landmark named in honour of the country's highest leader," added Azmi.

Azmi said Dr Mahathir had said that his pet name Che Det could be used if Pekan Rabu traders adopted a positive attitude and lived up to certain standards.

"During his visit yesterday, Dr Mahathir said we have to be serious in what we wanted to do and this is what we would be doing.

"There's no problem in using the name Che Det although Dr Mahathir's permission was not sought before the announcement on our plan was made.

"The co-operative is quite positive that he will allow the name Che Det to be used once the project is completed," he said.

Azmi said Dr Mahathir also gave a few suggestions on how to improve the bazaar.

Yesterday, when opening the co-operative's 38th annual general meeting, Dr Mahathir, who is also a member of the co-operative, said he was not sure the move to rename it and the pedestrian walkway, Che Det Walk, was a good idea.

Besides complaining that "Che Det Mall" was a bit of a tongue-twister, Dr Mahathir stressed that what was more important was that the project should be well-managed and the traders should practise high standards.

Dr Mahathir said he did not like the idea of buildings or places being named in his honour while he was still alive.

Pekan Rabu is being re-developed at a cost of RM13 million.

Under the redevelopment plan, Pekan Rabu complex which houses a collection of shops owned by Malay traders will be transformed into a retail and cultural centre by November this year.

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