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Yam Tuan-Industry

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TO REMAIN AS CATALYST FOR NS ECONOMIC GROWTH

SEREMBAN, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- The industrial sector is expected to fuel the state's development despite the current global economic slowdown which has taken a toll on the inflow of foreign investments.

The Yang Dipertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan Tuanku Ja'afar expressed confidence that the economic slowdown would not have a significant effect on the growth of the state's economy as the government had taken measures to stimulate the economy.

The 2,046.4-hectare Negeri Sembilan Science and Technology Corridor (ENSTEK) in Labu would be the catalyst for the state's future economic growth, he said when opening the State Legislative Assembly meeting today.

He said infrastructure development on a 320.8-hectare site under ENSTEK's phase 1A had started while phase two till phase six was on the drawing board.

Tuanku Ja'afar said the agriculture sector should also be given emphasis especially modern and commercial farming.

Among the projects being carried out are the Kampung Bukit Tembok/Sungai Raya Agriculture Project in Port Dickson covering 178.7 hectares for vegetable farming and fruit orchard and the 291-hectare Sepri Valley Development in Rembau, also for a similar purpose, he said.

Tuanku Ja'afar said the state government would continue to provide various facilities, upgrade existing infrastructures and woo more foreign investors.

Emphasis would also be given to construction of low-cost houses to provide comfortable homes to the low-income earners, he said.

Till September, a total of 36,442 applicants have registered to buy low-cost houses, he said.

He said 18,762 low-cost units have either been completed or were in various stages of construction.

Earlier, Tuanku Ja'afar inspected a guard-of-honour mounted by 103 members from the 24th Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment based at the Rasah camp.

Meanwhile, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said small projects implemented under the pre-emptive package were 17 per cent completed.

He said the projects are carried out smoothly but the rainy season had slightly affected its progress.

The contractors responsible need to find ways to complete the projects at the latest by Dec 31, he told reporters after opening of the State Legislative Assembly meeting.

Mohamed Isa said the state government monitored the progress of development projects to ensure they were implemented on schedule.

"In fact, I have instructed State Secretary Datuk Mohd Ali Abdul Samad to hold a meeting with all district officers on every Monday," he said.

He said elected representatives had also been asked to keep tab on the progress of projects in their constituencies because the contractors were picked based on their recommendation.

Negeri Sembilan has been allocated RM47 million under the economic stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last month.

On the construction of Universiti Negeri Sembilan in Gemas, he said the state government had alienated 200 hectares for the university to be built

under the Eighth Malaysia Plan by the federal government.

-- BERNAMA

APG TS