

24 APR 2001

Thaksin-Gas pipeline

THAILAND COMMITTED TO CONTINUE M'SIA-THAILAND GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 24 (Bernama) -- Thailand is committed in continuing the Malaysia-Thailand gas pipeline project from South Thailand to peninsular Malaysia, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said today.

He said the Thai government would honour the agreement that had been signed by the previous Thai government.

"We will honour the agreement that had been decided by the previous Thai government," he told a news conference here in conjunction with his two-day official visit to Malaysia.

The gas pipeline project was jointly developed by Petroleum Authority of Thailand and Petroliam Nasional Malaysia (Petronas).

Asked when the approval for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report would be obtained for the project to proceed, he said: "We will try our best."

He said the Thai government would try its best to accommodate the project so that it could proceed if the EIA report found that it would not be harmful to the local community.

"Whatever co-operation that is for the benefit of the two countries, the Thai government will do it," he said. He declined to elaborate.

The gas pipeline project was reportedly facing uncertainty following protests by the local communities in southern Thailand against the implementation of the project.

This had delayed the approval the EIA report when the hearing conducted as part of the EIA report had been postponed several times due to the protests and demonstrations by certain quarters who did want the project to continue.

Thaksin also said his four-eyed meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad this afternoon touched on co-operation between the two countries, especially bilateral relations.

He said both of them shared views on economic co-operation and they would try to improve the relation and bring it to new heights.

-- BERNAMA

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