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Tioman-Development
TIOMAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO REVIEW PLANS

KUANTAN, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- The Tioman Development Authority (TDA) will review existing plans to ensure they were appropriate in view of its new status as a duty-free island.

Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said the authority today agreed to review the island's development plans and assumed planning would have to start from `zero'.

He said the plans included building of infrastructure, relocation of government agencies, schools and others.

"A directive has been given to TDA management to present development plans at the next board of directors meeting," he told reporters after chairing the board of directors meeting today.

Adnan, who is also TDA chairman, said the board's decision would be forwarded to the Prime Minister's Department for an evaluation by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad before an approval is given.

In a meeting with Dr Mahathir recently, Adnan said the prime minister had given some instructions on Tioman's development and it would be implemented.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad had urged development in Tioman to be done in an environment-friendly manner and ensure the island's beauty is preserved and free of pollution," he said.

Adnan said Dr Mahathir also proposed to build more infrastructure, including two main jetties for cargo and passengers in Tekek, widening and extending Tioman's airport runway, improving water supply capacity, construction of roads from Tekek to Juara, a better waste disposal system and also building of a marina near Tekek.

He said the prime minister also proposed building houses and shops at Mukut and leasing it to eligible residents at low and flexible rates.

"After listening to the prime minister's explanation, I found Dr Mahathir was right about tourism and we consider him an adviser on housing on Tioman island," he said.

Meanwhile, Adnan said residents on the island did not have to worry because planning will ensure Tioman develops in a balanced way, in terms of residents' welfare, infrastructure development and also environment.

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