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Joint gas pipeline project to go on despite protests

ALOR STAR, Sat. - The development of the gas pipeline project under the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Development Area will go ahead despite protests from several quarters in Thailand.

The commitment by the two countries were expressed by Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie and Thailand's Energy Minister Prongthep Thepkanchana after the launching of the Malaysia-Thailand 300/600MW Interconnection project here.

Prongthep said after the ceremony that Thailand would go ahead with the project despite the protests.

He was asked to comment on the unruly protests in Thailand today, on the eve of the informal talks between Malaysian and Thai Cabinets in Haadyai tomorrow.

The gas pipeline project is expected to be discussed by the two parties.

The talks will be headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Thai counterpart Thaksin Shinawatra.

"We stick by our decision to implement the project. It is one of the areas of economic co-operation we have entered with Malaysia."

Meanwhile, Moggie said the project would be implemented as scheduled. He said the matter would be raised at tomorrow's meeting.