

18 OCT 2002

Malaysia-India

MALAYSIA TO STUDY PROPOSED ROAD PROJECT IN ANDHRA PRADESH

By: Ahmad Zukiman Zain

HYDERABAD, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will study a proposed mammoth road project in Andhra Pradesh which will provide further growth to this southern Indian state, Malaysian Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said.

He said he had asked the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) to get Malaysian engineers to look into the feasibility of the project and prepare an initial report to be submitted to the Andhra Pradesh state government.

Its Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu, had indicated interest in the 200km Outer Ring Road project which would take traffic around this city to several destinations, he added.

"Once he has studied the (initial) report, we'll see what is the next step," he told Bernama after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's two-day visit to Andhra Pradesh which ended yesterday. It was Dr Mahathir's first visit to the state.

He said Naidu's interest to get Malaysian involvement in the project reflected his confidence in the ability of the Malaysian contractors.

"We've done quite a lot of jobs in India. The Indian government has been kind enough to continuously provide contracts. We've won several tenders," he said.

In a separate interview, Naidu told Bernama that Dr Mahathir's visit would pave the way for greater interaction between the two countries, especially for his state.

"We are working on some more things...many Malaysian investors are coming to Andhra Pradesh to be involved in road building, ports, airports and construction activities," said Naidu, who charted a "Vision 2020" for the state after being inspired by Dr Mahathir's vision to develop Malaysia.

He said it was a good move for the people of both sides to invest in each other's development programme.

He singled out Satyam Computer Services Limited, a giant Indian IT solution provider, which is keen to expand its operation to Malaysia.

"It is a win-win situation, more and more interaction of the two countries will have better chances in investing," said Naidu who was instrumental in the launch of the Hitec City near here which was visited by Dr Mahathir.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said there were lots of areas where Andhra Pradesh was inspired by Malaysia.

"They are very determined to achieve progress. If Malaysia can succeed why can't they emulate," he told Bernama.

Saying that the state had numerous similarities with Malaysia, he felt that it was very focused in its development programme.

"They look at the future of the world GDP (gross domestic product) which will be dominated by the service sector and Malaysia's policy direction now is also on the service sector, so there is synergy," he said.

"I think the PM's visit this time is one of the most successful because it's substantive," said Syed Hamid.

He too hailed Satyam's move to make Malaysia a global IT solution centre that could benefit both sides.

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