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Samy-Highway

MINISTRY WAITS FOR "GREEN LIGHT" FROM TERENGGANU GOV'T

KUALA LUMPUR, June 25 (Bernama) -- The Works Ministry is still waiting for official agreement from the Terengganu government to continue the cooperation in building phase two of the East Coast Highway (LPT) in the state.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu said the ministry had already stated to the state government its agreement to pay compensation to land owners for acquiring the land affected by the construction of the highway.

"At the moment, we only have information that they welcome the decision but there is nothing official," he told reporters after launching the Malaysia Skills Competition 2002, here today.

Samy Vellu said this when asked on the latest development concerning the construction of phase two of the LPT from Chendering to Bukit Besi in Terengganu, following the state government's decision to remain firm in continuing with the construction of the Motorway from Jabor to Hulu Besut although the federal government had agreed to build the LPT.

On June 5, Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang was reported as saying the construction of the Motorway was being undertaken following the federal government's refusal to provide an allocation for the acquisition of land and providing infrastructure for resettlement.

However, the cabinet had agreed on Wednesday to pay compensation for the land acquisition at the request of the ministry.

The LPT project worth RM2.7 billion and stretching 338 kilometres joining Karak, in Pahang and Chendering, in Terengganu, is implemented wholly by MTD Capital Berhad.

Currently, the first phase on the LPT project in Pahang worth RM1.2 billion is being implemented.

Asked how long it took the Pahang state government to complete the land acquisition for the project, Samy Vellu said the whole transaction took only six months -- a record in terms of speediness.

"So, if the Terengganu government can also do it fast, the faster we can proceed with the construction," he said.

The Malaysia Skills Competition 2002 is being organised for the first time by the industries concerned.

Since it was introduced in 1990, the competition which was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr mahathir Mohamad had been organised by the Works Ministry.

The competition this year, which will be held for four days from Sept 13, will involve 12 skills in seven industries.

The industries are Manufacturing (to be organised by the National Vocational Training Council), Construction (Construction Industry Board, Malaysia), Automobil (Proton), Heavy Industry (Petronas), Electrical and Electronics (Tenaga Nasional Berhad), ICT (Mimos Berhad), and Hospitality (Malaysian Hotels Association).

-- BERNAMA

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