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New development plan for Tioman

KUANTAN, Thurs. - The Pahang Government, through the Tioman Development Authority (TDA), will prepare a new development plan for the island to suit proposals outlined by the Federal Government.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said in line with Tioman's newly-accorded duty-free status, the State Government would have to make major adjustments to all development plans previously drafted.

"We may have to start from zero again as many more projects have to be implemented," he said after chairing a TDA board meeting today.

Adnan said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had directed the State Government to come up with a comprehensive plan based on several of his proposals.

In Kuala Lumpur, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said a committee would be formed to study the prices of consumer goods in Tioman in the wake of its duty-free status.

He said goods brought in from the mainland to Tioman were more expensive largely due to transportation costs and as a result tourists ended up paying more for consumer items even in the rural areas of the island.

The committee would be made up of representatives of Tioman's development authorities and business sector.

The Minister also said room rates in Tioman should not be increased merely because of the island's duty-free status.

"But we still hear complaints that the rates have increased," Muhyiddin said.