

INSI 1 U JUL 2003

Dr'M's call timely, says Thai envoy

SONGKHLA, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to expedite work on the Durian Burung Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) complex at the Kedah-Thailand border received a favourable response.

Thai ambassador to Malaysia Chaisiri Anamarn described Dr Mahathir's call as "very timely and supportive".

He confirmed a 4.2km road from the nearest Thai village, Ban Prakop, to the border had been completed.

It cost about 50 million baht (about RM4.8 million), he said when contacted "in his Kuala

Lumpur office today.

Chaisiri said work on the Thai's CIQ is expected to begin soon once an allocation from the Central Government is obtained.

After being briefed of the progress of the CIQ complex in Durian Burung yesterday, Dr Mahathir had urged the developer, Northern Integrated Agriculture Sdn Bhd, to expedite work on the complex and construction of an access road to the border.

The company is a joint venture between the Kedah Economic Development Corporation and Gerak Masyur Sdn Bhd.

The RM130 million CIQ is being built on a 15.48ha site.