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SAMY-ALGERIA

MALAYSIAN CONSORTIUM TO BID FOR ALGERIAN PROJECT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- Ranhill Jawala Consortium will submit a bid for the construction of a 1,216km highway in Algeria.

The bid, which will be submitted to the Algerian government, is a follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Algerian government and the consortium last month.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the consortium was undertaking a study on the proposed project, costing US\$3.2 billion, and would submit a formal bid for the project around April.

"This is a follow-up to the MoU signed during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to Algeria last month and the bid will include building of tunnels, rest areas and service stations along the highway," he said.

Samy Vellu said this after a luncheon with his Algerian counterpart Amar Ghoul, who is on a four-day visit to the country, after arriving here yesterday.

Ranwill Sdn Bhd is a Malaysian firm while Jawala is an Algerian company involved in infrastructure construction.

The proposed highway will be known as the East-West Algerian Highway.

Samy Vellu said it was not the sole project Malaysian firms were interested in as there were also ports and airports construction jobs.

He said Malaysian construction firms had so far spread their wings to 10 countries and if Algeria agreed to Ranhill's proposal, it will become the 11th nation.

Malaysian firms had successfully bid for projects worth more than RM9 billion in all 10 countries.

Amar Ghoul, when asked about the Malaysian bid, said that Algeria had trust in Malaysian firms based on their track records.

"We are looking for an international consortium to built the highway," he said. -- BERNAMA

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