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Chan-Tioman

NEW PULAU TIOMAN AIRPORT TO BE COMPLETED IN TWO YEARS

PULAU TIOMAN, Oct 29 (Bernama) -- The new airport on Pulau Tioman, costing up to RM150 million, will boost tourism on the duty-free island once it is completed in two years, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy said.

He said work on the airport, situated between Kampung Paya and Kampung Genting, which would start early next year, "will take 102 weeks and at this time, the Government is in the final stages of scrutinising contractors for the RM130 to RM140 million project."

He said this at Kampung Paya here after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad performed the ground-breaking ceremony of the new airport via video conferencing from the administrative capital of Putrajaya today.

Also present here was Pahang Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, while Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis were at the ceremony in Putrajaya.

Saying that the construction would consider environmental concerns by trying to minimise damage to the surroundings, Chan, however, agreed with Dr Mahathir's speech that Pulau Tioman's natural beauty had to be sacrificed slightly for development to provide facilities and prosperity for everyone, including residents of the island.

Chan said the new airport would be equipped with the latest systems and facilities for the operation of B737 aircraft and those in its class.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir also interacted with the Menteri Besar via video conferencing.

Adnan, in his speech, also conveyed the State's gratitude to the Prime Minister's commitment towards the development of Pulau Tioman.

-- BERNAMA

MS EMK SRI