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GHANI-PEKAN RABU

PEKAN RABU JOHOR TO OPEN UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUMI SMES

JOHOR BAHRU, July 1 (Bernama) -- The privatisation of the Pekan Rabu Johor market complex costing RM7 million at Tampoi near here will provide opportunities for bumiputera small and medium scale entrepreneurs to expand through competition among them, said Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman today.

He said the project, which was inspired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was expected to be ready in 18 months.

Dr Mahathir wanted each state to have a Pekan Rabu modelled along the lines of the Pekan Rabu in Alor Star so that they would become business models for Malay businesses.

"The government will provide the infrastructure for trading facilities and it is the responsibility of the traders to work hard and sharpen their business acumen so that their business will move to a higher level," he said at a ground-breaking ceremony for the complex here.

The privatisation project will be undertaken by the Johor state government, Johor State Secretary Inc and Swissharta Sdn Bhd on a piece of government land measuring 0.868 ha.

The three-storey complex would be styled along a Malay building which would also have attractive surroundings to attract customers, he said, adding that it would be a one-stop centre for bumiputera SMEs.

Abdul Ghani said a management corporation would be established to manage Pekan Rabu Johor to ensure that the businesses and activities would have the features of Pekan Rabu Alor Star.

He said those who were engaged in trading there would have to become members of a co-operative, have an excellent track record and stamina to face competition.

"Traders will be given opportunities to sell Johor cuisine and delicacies, textiles, clothing, handicraft and jewellery," he said. --

BERNAMA

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