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Ghani-Pipe

S'PORE YET TO RESPOND ON PIPELINE RELOCATION - GHANI

JOHOR BAHRU, Nov 21 (Bernama) -- Singapore has yet to respond to the proposal to relocate its Public Utilities Board's (PUB) water pipelines to make way for the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) Complex project here, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said.

He said the proposal was submitted almost one month ago and hoped Singapore would give its consent to prevent any delays to the CIQ project.

"Singapore's consent is required for construction of the new pipelines as the existing pipes which are on land and along the Causeway need to be relocated", he told reporters after visiting the CIQ project site here yesterday.

Meanwhile, Public Works Department construction director Anton Sebastian, said the department expected Singapore to take a month to respond.

"Now, it is still within the time-frame. I see no reason why they (Singapore government) should reject (proposal to relocate the pipelines)," said Sebastian who was also present during the visit.

The project, developed by Gerbang Perdana Sdn Bhd (GPSB), involves construction of the RM1.26 billion CIQ complex as well as RM1.1 billion road and rail bridges.

Launched by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad last August, it is due for completion end of 2005.

Abdul Ghani said the project was progressing according to schedule with the CIQ complex 23 per cent completed and the two bridges, 13 per cent completed.

He said RM118 million had been spent on construction of the CIQ and RM50 million on both bridges.

On the relocation of residents at the Bukit Chagar flats, he said they would be relocated once the Bakar Batu housing scheme was completed in 2005.

Early this year, residents at Lumba Kuda flats here were relocated to several housing areas in the city to make way for the CIQ project.

-- BERNAMA

MHI ZUL JK