

23 JUL 2004
Commercial
ACADEMY TO TRAIN 50,000 COMMERCIAL DRIVERS

BESUT, July 23 (Bernama) -- The Commercial Driving Academy planned for Gong Medang near here will be capable of training 50,000 commercial drivers, said Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

The academy, to be opened by Automative Centre of Excellence Sdn Bhd (ACE) can train 400 to 500 drivers a week on its 16km circuit, he told reporters at the academy's ground-breaking ceremony attended by ACE chairman Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Omar and National Academy of Motorsports chairman Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir.

Idris said the RM100 million academy, to be ready in eight or nine months, could provide 150 jobs to locals and contribute to the state's tourism and economy.

Meanwhile, Abdul Rahman said the country still lacked professional commercial drivers including container drivers, the demand for whom will increase with the completion of the new East Coast Highway linking Kuala Lumpur and Terengganu.

He said ACE planned similar academies in Johor, Penang, Sabah and Sarawak following its first academy in Sepang, Selangor which was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Feb 8.

-- BERNAMA
ND ERE LAT WGN