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## Tanjung Pinang development project resumes

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IT'S all systems go for the proposed RM5 billion Tanjung Pinang mixed development project in Tanjung Tokong, near Penang's famed Batu Ferringhi tourist belt.

After being stalled for about six years, the project has finally resumed, beginning with intense reclamation works off the Tanjung Tokong coastline.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last Saturday unveiled the proposed development of Tanjung Pinang, which will take 10 to 12 years to complete.

A unique feature of the project, developed by Tanjung Pinang Development Sdn Bhd (TPD), is that the proposed township will be built on a headland and three man-made islands.

TPD director Datuk Dr Nik Mohd Kamel Nik Hassan said under a concession agreement with the Penang State Government, TPD has been granted the exclusive right to reclaim and develop 397ha of the Tanjung Tokong coastline, 5km north of George Town.

He said the reclaimed land will be used for both commercial and residential developments. To ensure a harmonious lifestyle for residents, ample space will be allocated for public amenities, recreational parks and infrastructure.

"The Tanjung Pinang project will be carried out at no cost to the Government or the taxpayers.

"Although the reclamation will be costly, we have identified appropriate high-value development projects, including tourism, commercial and residential properties, to ensure viability and payback for our investment," he said, adding that TPD is estimating some 40,000 population upon the project's completion in 2015.

Nik Mohd Kamel said TPD has also taken care to ensure that the reclamation causes minimal environmental disruption.

Specifically, he said, the project will benefit the eroding coastline fronting Persiaran Gurney. The harmonious position and shape of the Tanjung Pinang headland and islands will shield the latter's coastline from erosive wave attacks.

He added that the increased depth of water achieved by the dredged channels around the reclaimed headland and islands will create aesthetically attractive water bodies and replacing the existing mudflats.

The Tanjung Pinang project has also received the greenlight from the Department of Environment on the mandatory Environmental Impact

Assessment.

Phase One involves 96ha of reclamation and soil improvement works which will take 18 months to complete. Work on Phase One will include the construction of 1,279 condominium units, 135 bungalow units, 264 double-storey units, 355 terrace units and 1,300 low-medium and low-cost units.

The development concept plans for Phase Two and Three are still pending.

TPD is 70 per cent owned by Permaisjana Ribu (M) Sdn Bhd and 30 per cent owned by the Operasi Gabungan Negeri Pulau Pinang and the Penang Development Corp.