

# Conditional support for oil pipeline

NST-10/5/2007

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**KOTA BARU:** The state government has attached a condition to their pledge to support the multi-million ringgit trans-peninsular oil pipeline from Kedah to Kelantan.

Instead of Bachok, it wants the pipeline to end in Tumpat.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat said the state had earmarked Bachok, which was the landing point chosen by the developer, for marine-based industries while a petrochemical complex and chemical industry centre had been approved in Tumpat.

"It is nearer to the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Development Area (JDA). In case of any development in the area, we can easily set up joint ventures with the companies there.

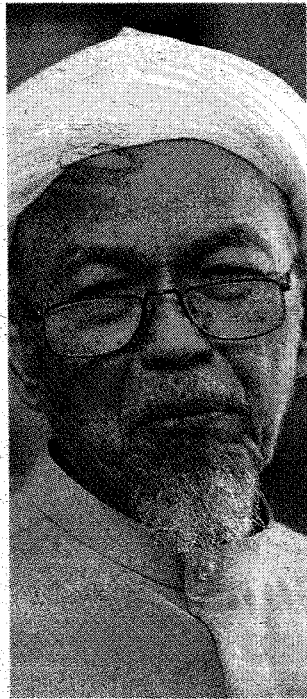
"Besides, the benefits from this project can also be enjoyed by the southern Thais who can set up businesses," he said after the signing ceremony for the development of a mini-hydro at Sungai Rek Ulu in Kuala Krai.

Nik Aziz was commenting on the Trans-Peninsula Petroleum Sdn Bhd's (TPP) plan to build the 300km pipe, which would help ships bypass the busy Straits of Malacca.

TPP chairman Rahim Kamil Sulaiman said the pipeline would cross three states — linking Yan in Kedah to Bachok in Kelantan.

Nik Aziz said he prefers big projects spread over many districts so that the whole state could benefit.

"There were previously plans to land oil and gas from the JDA, at Pantai Senok in Bachok but it was diverted. We hope the new project will take off as planned," he said.



**Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat wants the oil pipeline to end in Tumpat**

Earlier, state Public Administration, Economic Planning, Finance and Community Development committee chairman Datuk Husam Musa said the project was discussed four months ago.

"Our view then was for the pipeline to end in Tumpat and it should, if possible, use the present road alignment including the East-West Highway, to avoid a lot of land acquisitions," he said.