

**SPAD To Submit Proposal To Build Melaka Tram Project To PM  
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MELAKA, Nov 16 (Bernama) -- The Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) has agreed to submit the proposal on the RM272 million Melaka Tram System to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for approval.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said the project, for the Air Keroh to Bandar Hilir alignment, was to provide an efficient, green technology transportation for locals and tourists.

"The tram is different from a monorail because it functions as a public transportation to avoid traffic congestions in Melaka. We will exhibit the proposal to the public (for three months) for their response," he told reporters at the State Assembly here.

He was commenting on the motion 'Postponement of the Melaka Tram Project valued at RM272 million as it is currently not suitable for implementation' submitted by Betty Chew Gek Cheng (DAP-Kota Laksamana). The motion was unanimously rejected by the assembly.

The Melaka Tram System would be built by Syarikat Mrails International Sdn Bhd with the cooperation of the Chief Minister Incorporated.

Through an agreement, Syarikat Mrails agreed to design, build, manage, maintain and monitor the rail operation and tramcar for 25 years, apart from financing the cost of the project.

The Melaka Tram System, the first tram to use natural gas (NGV) in the world, was expected to be operational in May next year.

A tram is a rail transportation which is lighter than a train and differed from locomotives as it is built on roads.

Meanwhile, State Housing, Local Government and Environment Committee chairman Datuk Md Yunus Husin said the operators of illegal gambling machines in Melaka had yet to be identified.

"The activity could be carried out by individuals who have a network of gambling activities," he said when answering a question from Lim Jak Wong (DAP-Bachang).

He said the state government was always monitoring activities involving illegal gambling machines and public complaints were also needed for prompt action to be taken.

State Agriculture and Rural Development Committee chairman Datuk R. Perumal said the state government had planned and designed a drainage pump system into the Melaka River to face flood problems.

"The pump systems which have been successfully built are in Kampung Morten and Durian Daun," he told Betty Chew Gek Cheng. According to Perumal the installation of the pumps had reduced the risk of floods in Kampung Morten, Durian Daun, Bukit Cina and their surrounding areas.

The state government would also implement the Melaka River Parcel Two Cleaning and Beautification project from the Hang Tuah Bridge until Batu Hampar in December this year. The project was expected to be completed by 2013.

The sitting resumes tomorrow.

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