

PM At Agreement Signing For Pan Borneo Sabah Highway, Which Will Change State's Infrastructural Landscape

Bernama

April 11, 2016

PUTRAJAYA, April 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Monday witnessed the signing of the project delivery partner (PDP) agreement for the management and construction of the 706km Pan Borneo Sabah Highway.

Also present at the signing ceremony involving three parties, namely the federal government, Sabah state government and the PDP, were Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa.

According to a statement issued by the Works Ministry, the Pan Borneo Sabah Highway project would change the state's infrastructural landscape and provide a more efficient, comfortable and safer linkage for several major towns in the state and its 3.74 population.

The highway, starting from Sindumin to Tawau, is also seen as a strategic route for road users.

"The Pan Borneo Sabah Highway project is an upgrading of the existing passageway as well as the construction of new roads to link the towns involved. The highway will impose no toll," the statement said.

The agreement was signed by Works Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Zohari Akob, Sabah state secretary Tan Sri Sukarti Wakiman and Borneo Highway PDP Sdn Bhd managing director, Ir Shahelmey Yahya.

Borneo Highway PDP Sdn Bhd had been appointed as the PDP to implement the Pan Borneo Sabah Highway project.

The statement said the PDP would act as the single point of accountability and would be responsible for managing and overseeing the first phase development of the project at a reasonable cost.

Based on the construction period that had been agreed upon by the government, this highway is expected to be ready by Dec 31, 2021.

"During the implementation period, the PDP will be responsible for implementing the project based on the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that had been agreed on," the statement said.

The first package will involve the Papar-Donggongan stretch, a distance of 11.7 km, which is part of phase one of the Pan Borneo Sabah Highway project.

Most roads in phase one will be upgraded into four-lane dual carriageway based on the Public Works Department's (PWD) R5 standard (minimum lane width of 3.5 metres and speed limit of 100 kph), expected to be launched at the end of this month.

For coordination of the project implementation, an executive committee will be formed and chaired by Sukarti, with the members comprising representatives of federal and state government agencies.

The committee will be responsible for monitoring and coordinating, as well as solving any arising issue that may arise in implementing the project.

Besides that, the committee will also ensure that the involvement of the people of Sabah in the project could be maximized, according to the statement.

Musa, when met by reporters after the signing ceremony, thanked the federal government, particularly Najib, for his high level of commitment and fulfilling the promise made to the people in Sabah.

"The prime minister is sincere in wanting to ensure that infrastructure in Sabah are developed for the good and comfort of the people.

"I believe and am optimistic that this highway will provide comfort and other benefits to the people, and spur rapid development in Sabah," he said.

Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Works Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, and Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Irwan Serigar Abdullah.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1233989>