

Special Task Force to Tackle Issues in Labuan - DPM
Bernama
Aug 21, 2016

LABUAN, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- A special task force has been set up to resolve various issues affecting the people on Labuan Island, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The committee which Zahid himself would chair is expected to start discussions by September.

"We have had informal preliminary discussions with Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, the Economic Planning Unit and several senior federal government officials to review Labuan's economy, and I will have a formal meeting during the first week of next month," he told reporters after officiating the Labuan UMNO Division Delegates Meeting here Sunday.

Zahid said the committee members would comprise Labuan Member of Parliament (MP), senior UMNO leaders in Labuan, Youth and Puteri heads, as well as former Labuan MPs.

"Their involvement is necessary to enable us to coordinate the opinion and views of all parties to help offer new ideas on how to transform Labuan's economy," he said adding that the economy should benefit the people and not individuals.

Among the issues which will be tabled are the oil and gas sector, the high price of consumer products, new customs tax which has burdened the people of Labuan, the status of Labuan International Campus of Universiti Malaysia Sabah, projects in Labuan for local contractors and permit for charter flights from China to Labuan.

Zahid said he was confident that the special task force would help find solutions to revive Labuan's economy.

He said focus would also be given to the tourism sector in Labuan following the fall in world oil prices which has affected the oil and gas sector on the island.

The deputy Prime Minister also called on UMNO leaders there to cast aside their differences and resolve issues for the sake of the party and people.

Zahid also approved a RM4.5 million allocation to build and repair bridges in water villages and improve infrastructure.

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