

MB: Pahang govt to ensure aerospace city in Gebeng meets all requirements

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Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail said the state government is committed to ensure requirements and procedures for the international airport project and mixed development located in Gebeng, near here is done accordingly to ensure it becomes reality. - Pic credit Facebook Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail

KUANTAN: The Pahang government will ensure all conditions set by the federal government for the construction of the Pahang aerospace city project, including the Kuantan International Airport(KIA), are fulfilled.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail said the state government is committed to ensure requirements and procedures for the international airport project and mixed development located in Gebeng, near here is done accordingly to ensure it becomes reality.

"During the state executive council meeting on July 15 in 2020, the Pahang government agreed for a comprehensive study to be conducted for the construction of the Pahang aerospace city. The project proposal was tabled and received the approval of the 39th National Physical Planning Council chaired by Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob) on Oct 21 last year.

"The joint venture project on a site measuring 5,042ha in Gebeng will be developed through the private financing initiative (PFI) which has the concept of Build-Operate-

Own development. The airport's operation will be completely handled by a company through the proposed formation of a special purpose vehicle namely Pahang Airport Bhd," he said in a statement today.

Wan Rosdy said the statement today was to respond to a question raised by former transport minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook, who is Seremban member of parliament in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. Loke had asked why Pahang had superseded the federal government in announcing details of the development of the new airport.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Wee Ka Siong replied that the proposed KIA has yet to receive the nod from the federal government and the state is in the midst of preparing the necessary reports.

Meanwhile, Wan Rosdy said to ensure the project becomes a reality, a timeline was established for the duration of its expected construction and operation.

"It is to ensure that all stakeholders take appropriate action and comply with all the conditions for construction of the new airport, until it obtains the Aerodrome Operator License (AOL) approval from the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia.

"The planning timeline is vital for the Pahang government as this is a high-impact project which is in line with the state government's aspiration to make the state as a national transit hub," he said.

Wan Rosdy said on March 1, 2022, a memorandum of agreement (MoA) was signed between the Pahang State Secretary Corporation as the land owner with Pahang Corporation Sdn Bhd as the manager and project advisor and Gading Group Bhd as the main developer for the proposed Pahang aerospace city and KIA.

"The MoA displays the seriousness of the Pahang government in trying to obtain the commitment from the main developer to make the project a success. On July 6 (last month), two MoU's were signed between the main developer and its strategic partner.

"The main developer is in the process of preparing the necessary documents and carrying out related studies to comply with the conditions set by the Transport Ministry. The Pahang government always aims to be an investor-friendly state by providing a conducive investment environment."

Wan Rosdy said he hopes the project will receive the support from all parties so that the economic spillover will not only be enjoyed in Pahang but also other states especially those in the east coast.

On July 6, it was reported that the RM2 billion KIA, which will be part of the Pahang aerospace city project will be fully operational in 2026.