

SAMALAJU ROAD TO BE INCLUDED UNDER 10 MP

BINTULU: A proposal to to construct a road connecting the newly completed Tanjung Batu -ABF coastal road to the Samalaju New Township in Similaju will be included under the 10th malaysia Plan (10MP).



Bintulu Development Authority (BDA) general manager Datu Mohidin Ishak said the road is important because Samalaju New Township, located within the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) is the nerve centre of Samalaju Industrial Park with heavy industries such as a polysilicon plant, an aluminium smelter, and Samalaju Port.



"We have planned to link the newly completed Tanjung Batu-ABF beach with Samalaju New Township, located 60 km from Bintulu. Now, we are seeking the funds to build it under the 10th Malaysia Plan," he said.

Construction work on the Samalaju New Township will begin next year and is expected to be completed within 5 to 10 years. Mohidin said this after the contract signing ceremony yesterday between BDA and Juara Beetuah Sdn Bhd, a local contractor that will be responsible for building a 1.5 km road at the Kidurong Industrial Area(KINDA). On Tanjung Batu-ABF beach road, he advised road users to be more civic-minded.

"This road is restricted for only light vehicles and utilising for leisure rides only whereby motorists and their families can savour the beautiful coastline, jungles, beaches and the pristine environment."

"To ensure the pristine nature of the road and its surroundings, we have banned heavy vehicles from entering, which could damage the road and the environment there," Mohidin added.

Only the newly - completed 1Malaysia town Bus Terminal located at Parkcity Commercial Square, he said two bus operators have refused relocate there, citing competition. "We asked the two buses operators to shift their operations there but they declined to do so. They prefer to be operating at the present location nearby Tamu market in the town centre,' he said.

Nevertheless, the bus operators and jungle product traders near the Tamu Market will need to move out because the land belongs to Park City Commercial Management, which needs it for commercial development, Mohidin said. "We hope the bus operators and jungle product traders could vacate the place as soon as possible, so that the land there could be developed into a commercial centre, " he said.

Source : Borneo Post dated June 9, 2010.