



Headline	Pre-fabs a must within four years
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'Pre-fabs a must within four years'

Rahman: Time to make it mandatory for construction industry to adopt system

SHAH ALAM: New laws will be drafted to make it mandatory for the construction sector to switch to the industrialised building system (IBS) within the next four years.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan, who is in charge of the Economic Planning Unit, said discussions are underway before a paper on IBS is forwarded to the Cabinet.

Under the system, components are manufactured in a controlled environment, either on site or off site, and assembled into construction work.

"It is time to put our foot down and make it mandatory for construction industry players to adopt the IBS," said Abdul Rahman.

"I don't think we will be able to make the switch if we don't make it mandatory," he told reporters after attending MMC-Gamuda Tunnelling Training Academy's graduation ceremony here yesterday.

Apart from being more efficient, he said the IBS would also help reduce the nation's dependence on foreign workers.

However, Rahman acknowledged that the industry must be given time to prepare for the switch such as setting up sufficient IBS plants and amending local council by-laws.

Commenting on the Finance Ministry's recent announcement to call off a deal to sell a 60% equity stake in Bandar Malaysia to a consortium comprising China Railway Engineering Corp (M) Sdn Bhd (CREC) and Iskandar Waterfront Holdings Sdn Bhd (IWH), he said the Prime Minister had taken a bold move to seek a "better deal" for the country.

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Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan

"If I were you, I would praise the Prime Minister for taking a very bold move in getting a better deal for the people," he said.

On May 3, TRX City Sdn Bhd, which is owned by the Finance Ministry, said the agreement signed in December 2015 with IWH and CREC had lapsed because the buyers "failed to meet the payment obligations".

Tipped to be the largest development site in the country, Bandar Malaysia will be a catalyst for economic growth and national development.

As Malaysia's transport nucleus, it will connect the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore high-speed rail, MRT lines, KTM Komuter, Express Rail Link and 12 highways.

Najib, who was in Beijing, for the Belt and Road Forum for Economic Cooperation, had met up with Dalian Wanda Group's chairman Wang Jianlin, China's richest man.

The Wanda chairman had expressed "desire" to participate in the Bandar Malaysia development and was expressing his stance although no agreement has been reached.