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## Work on RM500m Mukah airport starts tomorrow

By : NORNASHEILA ZAIDI

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**KUCHING:** Construction works on Mukah new airport will start tomorrow and the project is scheduled to be completed by 16 December, 2015.

Infrastructure Development and Communications Minister Dato Sri Michael Manyin Jawong said the construction of the package 1 of the airport project at the cost of RM133 million would be undertaken by Hock Peng Furniture & General Contractor Sdn Bhd and expected to be completed within 20 months.

"This new airport will help to bring development to the coastal areas in Mukah in the future, especially areas under the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE).

"The airport will also enhance road network not only in Mukah, but also in nearby areas such as Tanjung Manis, Samalaju, Sibul, Bintulu, Kapit and Baram," Manyin told a press conference after witnessing the contract signing of 'Mukah New Airport Project: Package 1 - Initial Earthwork' between Hock Peng Group and Public Works Department (JKR) at a hotel here, yesterday.

According to Manyin, the new Mukah airport will be able to serve SCORE as it will have a Code 3C runway that can accommodate ATR 72 aircraft.

He pointed out that should the need arise in future, the airport could be upgraded and expanded into Code 4C airport to accommodate Boeing 737 or Airbus A320 aircraft

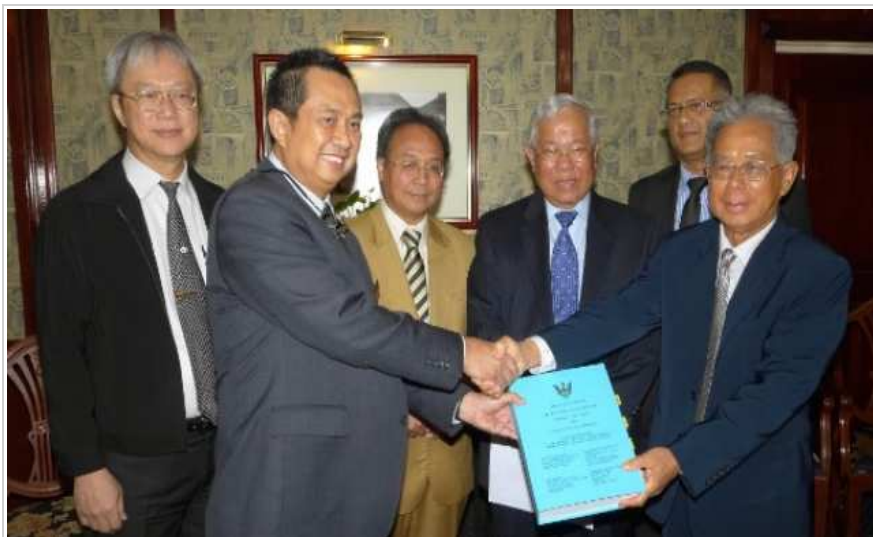
He stressed that the airport project had been planned since 2006 and not recently or a political gimmick as claimed by some quarters.

Also present at the signing ceremony were the Director of Public Works Department Ir Haji Zuraimi Haji Sabki, Chairman and Managing Director of Hock Peng Group Datuk Toh Chiew Hock and Chief Executive Officer of RECODA Datuk Amar Wilson Baya Dandot.

Meanwhile, *New Sarawak Tribune* correspondent in Mukah, Henry Siyu, reported that the people there could now envisage better air connectivity in the near future with the construction of the new airport.

The site of the new airport is located about seven kilometres from Mukah town and the project is undoubtedly considered as the most awaited project by the people in Mukah Division.

The whole project would cost RM500 million to RM600 million.



DATO Sri Michael Manyin (third right), Datuk Amar Wilson Baya (third left), Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Communications Safri Zainuddin (second right) and JKR deputy Director Philip Ng witnessing Datuk Toh Chiew Hock (right) and Ir Zuraimi Sabki exchanging the contract documents. PHOTO: JOHN CHAN

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