

Jesselton New City to have theme park

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KOTA KINABALU: The proposed Jesselton New City, located next to Sabah International Convention Centre (SICC) in Tanjung Lipat will be a game changer for the state's economy.

Once completed, it will attract more visitors to Sabah, said Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin.

He said this when met after witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WWSB Ventures Sdn Bhd (WWSB) which has teamed up with Vizlone Construction Sdn Bhd, Sycal Skycity Sdn Bhd and Guangcai China (M) Sdn Bhd for the multi-billion ringgit project that would see a Skytrain service connecting the Kota Kinabalu International Airport (KKIA) to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) via the

city's downtown area.

The Jesselton New City development with an estimated gross development value of RM5 billion is expected to be completed in six years and it will be part of the second phase of the Skytrain to be known as KKIA Express Line 2.

KKIA Express Line 2 would span over 15kms from Jesselton Central terminal to the State government administrative centre as well the Federal administrative centre, UMS and finally the Alamesra commercial and residential area.

Bung Moktar said that the investors from Hong Kong, China were keen to invest in the Skytrain project as well as the Jesselton New City.

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30-acre devt will be a huge attraction

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The 30-acre development will include a resort, a cruise ship harbour and a theme park which will be a huge attraction, he said.

"We will have a theme park (there). Before this people had to go to Genting and Langkawi to enjoy such attractions but now the investors are providing Sabahans and visitors to the state with this opportunity," the Works Minister said.

On the issue of reclamation of the sea for the development and how it will affect the marine ecosystem, Bung Moktar said an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out before the project is implemented.

"There will be some reclamation

work done but I guarantee that the marine ecosystem and diving spots nearby will not be affected," he said.

On whether the development will take away more public spaces in the city, Bung Moktar said that would not happen.

When asked about the Skytrain, he said that it will be similar to the one in China and a delegation from Sabah will be visiting the country and factory soon to see how the machine is produced and operated.

He also said that they expect to see the project commencing in February next year.

The Skytrain, he stressed, would also not affect the ecosystem as it will run on solar power.