

## RECLAMATION DEAL

# Butterworth to get new RM2 billion waterfront

**GEORGE TOWN:** The coastal landscape in north Butterworth, between North Butterworth Container Terminal and Jalan Tunku Putra, Teluk Air Tawar, is set to change with the construction of a new waterfront within the next few years.

This follows a supplementary agreement inked between the Penang government and Rayston Consortium (Butterworth) Sdn Bhd to reclaim 650ha of the land there.

Yesterday's signing will push Rayston to start the long-delayed reclamation work since the first agreement was signed in 1999.

The company has been given six months to submit planning approval, including obtaining the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approval.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said once reclaimed, the area would be developed into a mixed-development project, which was set to boost the economy of mainland Penang.

"We are excited with the prospect of the creation of the new waterfront.

"In the economic sense, this project will boost the economy of Butterworth and its surrounding areas, especially in terms of logistics and transportation, as the site will be where the undersea

project is, if it proceeds as planned."

Present at the inking of the agreement were State Secretary Datuk Seri Farizan Darus and Rayston director Datuk Ronnie Lim.

Chow said housing, particularly affordable homes, would be among components in the mixed-development project, in line with the state's government housing policy.

Lim estimated the overall reclamation project to be tagged at RM2 billion.

He said the project had been long delayed owing to the relocation of some 1,700 squatters along the Butterworth Outer Ring Road alignment, Bagan Ajam and its surrounding areas.

"Since we have settled the (issue of the) squatters, we can proceed with the

project. Subject to discussion with the Penang government, this will be a mixed-development project."

Under the supplementary agreement, new clauses were added to the 1999 agreement, in which Rayston would hand over 35 per cent of the reclaimed land, about 90.31ha, to the state government, instead of only five per cent, or 12.92ha, within six months of the commencement of work.



Chow Kon Yeow