

# Sg Sitiawan may be deepened

NST 3/12/2006.

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**LUMUT:** The Transport Ministry will consider expanding dredging works at Sungai Dinding to include deepening its tributary, Sungai Sitiawan, as requested by five companies sharing the river frontage.

"We will try to find a way to dredge Sungai Sitiawan without incurring additional costs," said Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy.

He said the dredging for Sungai Dinding cost RM24 million.

"A deeper river would allow passage of bigger barges and vessels, enabling companies to build and transport larger structures."

Chan spoke after opening the RM30 million workshop at the Kencana HL Sdn Bhd fabrication yard in the Lumut Port Industrial Park yesterday.

To be completed in April, current dredging work by the ministry's marine department is to achieve a minimal depth of 10 me-

tres along Sungai Dinding.

Kencana HL, a subsidiary of Kencana Petroleum Bhd, and its neighbours, Impsa Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Torsco Sdn Bhd, Grade One Marine Shipyard Sdn Bhd and Lumut Lee Marine Co Sdn Bhd, are asking that Sungai Sitiawan be similarly dredged so that the area could be a "complete natural harbour".

Kencana Petroleum, which provides engineering and fabrication of production facilities for the oil and gas industry, is currently limited to building structures weighing less than 5,000 tonnes but is keen to produce high-end structures weighing up to 20,000 tonnes.

Its construction of a self-elevated removable platform, the highest in the world at 150 metres, for an oil and gas operation in New Zealand, is due to be completed in September.

The five companies, with some 3,500 employees, report a cumulative revenue of RM1 billion per annum.