

Stopping absurd claims

SULTANATE THRONE: Change to constitution will give state the authority to deal with issue

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THE Malacca government will table a motion to amend the state's constitution, which will provide it with the authority to deal with those laying claim to the state's sultanate throne.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron said the motion will be tabled in the next state assembly, either in March or June this year.

He said the proposed amendment would stop all ridiculous claims made by certain individuals that had made the state a laughing stock.

"The state government will discuss the matter with other states that are facing a similar problem to

get the best solution. We will also exchange ideas with Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said on the matter," he said yesterday.

He said the state's legal adviser would study and introduce a new clause allowing legal action against those who made similar claims even though they were residing outside the state.

Idris said the existing laws were not strong enough to allow legal action to be taken against those who claimed to be the sultan or the heir to the throne of the sultanate here.

He said the current laws had enabled individuals claiming to be the sultan of the state to escape legal punishment.

It was reported that Raja Noor Jan Shah Raja Tuah had declared himself as the state's sultan.

Saripa Muliani A. Latif, or *Bonda Ratu*, who had planned to organise a private "investiture ceremony" in Sungai Rambai near here earlier this year, had claimed that her husband, who was born in the state, was supposed to inherit the sultanate throne here and had called Raja an impersonator.

The Rio@Sungai Melaka to see construction of canal

MALACCA: The scenic historical Sungai Melaka will get a boost to enhance its attraction through a RM200 million water canal development project.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron said the project, known as "The Rio@Sungai Melaka", would comprise a 27-storey four-star hotel tower, a 32-storey service apartment tower and a nine-storey commercial retail complex.

"The project will be undertaken by Smart Growth Development Sdn Bhd and Malacca River and Coastal Development Corporation (PPSPM).

"It is part of the state's development plan to turn Jalan Hang Tuah into Hang Tuah Malacca Commercial Centre, emulating London's Oxford Street," he said at the signing of agreement between Smart Growth Development chief executive officer Tan Kim Chuan and PPSPM chief executive officer Nazary Ahmad at Seri Negeri here yesterday.

A canal would run through the complex for river cruise boats to pass through.

He added that the state government had outlined plans to develop eight other projects on the western bank of the river.

The projects would take between five and eight years to complete.



Malacca River and Coastal Development Corporation chief executive officer **Nazary Ahmad** (right) exchanging an agreement with Smart Growth Development chief executive officer **Tan Kim Chuan** in Malacca yesterday. With them is Chief Minister **Datuk Seri Idris Haron** (centre). Pic by Rasul Azli Samad