



Rozman (centre) with supporters at the programme.

Labuan to see major changes

Iffah Dilaney

LABUAN: The duty-free island's landscape is expected to evolve and change significantly with the implementation and completion of several development projects, said incumbent Labuan MP Datuk Rozman Isli.

Among the projects slated are the RM174 million coastal road project to ease traffic congestion and improve the island's connectivity, the replacement of old water pipelines around the island and a double carriage-way project from Lajau to Lubok Temiang.

He said the government also approved the construction of an artificial football field for sports development and upgrade of the Labuan Nucleus Hospital with additional facilities, health clinic, staff quarters and specialists.

"Some of these people-centric projects are in progress while the remaining are scheduled to be implemented this year," he said during the Santai Abang Man Programme at Ramsay here, Tuesday.

He said the island has received a huge allocation from the Federal Government since it elevated into a Federal Territory.

"We must be thankful to the government for being fair to us regardless of the fact that the island is located far off Putrajaya. Labuan has never been left behind or neglected.

"We hope the completion of the infrastructures will greatly help boost Labuan's

economy, with the creation of more employment and business opportunities in the long run," added Rozman.

He said the connectivity between Labuan and the mainland is crucial and will continue to be highlighted in the interest of the island's economy.

Rozman, who is also Labuan Corporation Chairman, said the duty-free premium outlet project would help turn the island into a tourism hot-spot, with a firm foothold as an international business and financial district by 2030.

Scheduled for completion in the first quarter of next year, the RM70 million BVO Premium Outlet development by Labuan Corporation and BVA Bhd was implemented following the launch of the Labuan Development Blueprint 2030 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Rozman said the project was a major commitment to the development plans outlined in the blueprint, a move that aims to transform the island into a smart and sustainable destination, an international business and financial district, as well a tourism hot spot by 2030.

"We can leverage our duty-free status by creating a shopping haven here and this outlet complement that aspiration," he said and pointed out that the development is a clear indication the free port status will remain intact even when the island becomes physically linked to mainland Sabah.

