



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NO

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DATE

16 February 1973

260-TON HARBOUR DREDGE FOR MALAYSIA

The Australian Government is to give Malaysia a 260-ton dredge for use in the harbours and ports of Sarawak.

Announcing this today, the Minister Assisting the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator D. Willesee, said that the dredge, costing \$A545,000, would be provided under the Australian aid programme.

The dredge has been designed and built by an Australian company, Kon-Tiki Engineering Pty. Ltd., of Killara, N.S.W., and will be used initially in the development of the port of Kuching, and later at Sibü and other river ports in Sarawak where there are substantial dredging requirements.

The vessel will be named "Barkuna" by Mrs F.E. Stewart, wife of the Federal Minister for Tourism and Recreation, at a special ceremony near Sydney on Monday (19 February), which will also be attended by the Acting High Commissioner for Malaysia, Mr A. Faiz.

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The dredge will then be dismantled into 20 sections, each weighing 12 tons, and shipped to Sarawak where it will be put into use as soon as possible.

(Note for editors: the naming ceremony will be held at Epsom Road, Chipping Norton, near Sydney, at 2.45 p.m. on Monday 19 February. You or your representative are cordially invited to attend.)