



Waste power plants given green light

The government yesterday gave the nod to two energy-from-waste power plants worth 6.6 billion baht.

The first plant worth 4.4 billion baht will be constructed on the grounds of the Nonthaburi Provincial Administrative Organisation, while the second worth 2.2 billion will be built in Nakhon Ratchasima municipality.

Deputy Prime Minister MR Pridiyathorn Devakula, in his capacity as chairman of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy Committee, said the projects were part of a government plan to allow private investment to help tackle waste problems.

Construction is scheduled to start this year.

Meanwhile, MR Pridiyathorn said construction of 65 development projects worth 1.35 trillion baht under a five-year plan for PPPs was set to kick off next year.

The plan is being used as a guideline for joint investments with the private sector.

The projects will be divided into two main categories, the first covering urban mass transit, an expressway, ports, high-speed trains, telecommunications and high-speed internet.

The second category will include motorways (227 billion baht); inland container depots (21 billion); a common ticketing system (100 million); space management of airports; water management; irrigation; waste treatment; education; public health; pharmaceuticals and medical appliances; infrastructure development for science, technology and innovation; the digital economy and related industries; conventions; and housing construction for low-income earners, the elderly and the disabled.

Any state agency wanting to invest in the first group must ask for approval from the PPP Policy Committee.

But to help commuters, the government is likely to build two motorways to ease traffic congestion.

They are a 98-kilometre road from Nonthaburi's Bang Yai district to Kanchanaburi worth 55 billion baht and a 196-km road from Bang Pa-in to Nakhon Ratchasima via Saraburi worth 84.6 billion.

