

Multimillion dollar tourism resort to be developed in Indonesia by UAE

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Jakarta: The UAE is to develop a multimillion-dollar tourism resort in its westernmost Aceh province, in Indonesia as part of its plan to support the implementation of several major infrastructure projects in the country. Aceh, a semi-autonomous province on the northwest tip of Sumatra Island in Indonesia is the only region in Muslim-majority Indonesia that imposes Shariah.

The tourism resort development project, which according to Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment Luhut Pandjaitan is valued at between \$300 million and \$500 million, is expected to start in Aceh Singkil district in May. According to Al-Mazrou some islands off the main coast of Aceh have been identified for the resort.

According to a statement by the Indonesian Ambassador to the UAE, Husin Bagis, one of the considerations for developing the project in Aceh is that it is only five hours away from the UAE by plane.

A series of business agreements were signed between UAE and Indonesia during the Jakarta visit by UAE Energy and Infrastructure Minister Suhail Al-Mazrou, the first high-level government official from the UAE to visit Indonesia since the

signing of a bilateral safe travel corridor agreement in July last year.

The agreements are a part of a \$22.9 billion deal signed during Indonesian President Joko Widodo's Abu Dhabi visit in January last year. The investment deal, also covers energy, infrastructure, and mining.

Al-Mazrui, and members of his delegation were in Indonesia to attend a series of events during Indonesia-Emirati Amazing Week, held in Jakarta, Solo, Bandung and Surabaya on March 1-8.

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