

Penang Sentral to open in December

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BUTTERWORTH: After an 11-year wait, Penang Sentral, the seamless transportation hub in the northern region will open its doors to the public in December.

The project, which began in 2007, was hindered by land acquisition issues and construction of the hub was jump-started in 2015.

Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow who visited the hub said the state government was happy that Penang Sentral was finally becoming a reality after so many years.

"It is another step towards rapid public transportation in the country and Penang Sentral is an integral part of the seamless connectivity between bus, rail, taxi and ferry," said Chow to newsmen during a visit to the hub here yesterday.

"The story doesn't end here as there could be future phases of development by Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB) including improving the ferry terminal since there are talks about introducing catamaran ferries this year."

MRCB chief operating officer (property) Shireen Iqbal said there are seven phases to the project with a gross development value of RM2.8bil which will be built over a period of 12 years until 2030.

"The future phases would be considered only upon market demand. This involves serviced apartments,



Finishing touches:

Chow (centre) being briefed by Shireen (on his right) during his working visit at Penang Sentral in Butterworth.

SOHO and commercial development."

Shireen said the hub is situated on a total 9.17ha with phases one to four occupying 5.6ha and the balance for the future phases.

She said presently the final testing and commissioning was going on to rectify all the hiccups before the hub opened to the public in December.

"The hub can take in 3,000 to 4,000 passengers a day which could increase in the future."

Chow who also spoke about the

Penang Skycab, said an Environmental Impact Assessment report had been approved for the project, which is part of the Penang Transport Master Plan.

"However, the point of landing would have to be adjusted as the Jelutong landfill, which was the original site, would not be suitable anymore, and the alignment could move towards George Town near the jetty."

Penang Sentral, said Chow would definitely be the hub for the light rail transit in the future but noted it

was not the right time now to go into details of the proposals.

On housing the Urban Transformation Centre (UTC), which was originally supposed to be located within Penang Sentral, Chow said the Seberang Prai Municipal Council former headquarters in Jalan Datuk Haji Ahmad Said is being looked at as it is close to Penang Sentral.

"It looks like the best location for the facility, but we will leave it to the Federal Government to make a decision on its location."

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