

# Cruise terminal set for expansion

## Business will go on as usual at Penang port as work begins next month

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**GEORGE TOWN:** The RM155mil expansion work at Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) will begin next month.

Upon its scheduled completion in a year's time, the length of the terminal will be expanded northwards from the current 545m to 793m.

Penang Port Commission (PPC) chairman Jeffrey Chew said the terminal would still be open during the expansion period.

"Business will go on as usual.

"The expansion will be carried out by Penang Port Sdn Bhd and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd," he said during a press conference at

PPC headquarters in Weld Quay on Thursday.

It was earlier reported that upon completion, the terminal would be able to handle two mega-sized cruise ships simultaneously on the outer berths along with one small-sized vessel and a medium one on the inner berths.

Chew said they recorded 1.2 million cruise passenger arrivals each year.

He said the expansion was crucial as they were expecting about two million cruise passenger arrivals starting next year.

On the proposed East Seafront Project stretching from the old Penang Yacht Club (PYC) to Tanjung City Marina, Chew said it would

take off in six months' time.

He said the 4.8ha site would feature a commercial and cultural district that complies with heritage guidelines set under the Special Area Plan (SAP) for the Unesco Heritage site.

He added that the project would involve three components – site A (from the old PYC site to the seafront next to SPCT), site B (from the seafront godowns between the pier and Tanjung City Marina) and site C (Tanjung City Marina).

"We are still in discussion with the contractor for the development of site A.

"We plan to turn the old warehouses, an open car park and an old building into a parking and

cultural area.

"As for site B, it will be a private finance initiative at a cost of RM100mil to convert the existing structures into a residential, commercial and cultural district.

"On site C, the deadline for a request for proposal is Dec 11 this year," he said.

Penang housing, local government, town and rural development committee chairman Jagdeep Singh Deo, who was also present, said the state was looking forward to a new public promenade for visitors to enjoy the scenic view of Weld Quay at the proposed project.

He said the project by George Town Conservation and Develop-

ment Corporation (GTDC) and Chief Minister Incorporated (CMI) included the upgrading of the cruise terminal, the setting up of a cultural district, the refurbishment of godowns, creating a new public promenade, and a mixed-use transport hub and business district.

"GTDC, together with CMI, will organise a design competition for those who wish to share their ideas and design proposals on the proposed East Seafront Project," he added.

Also present were CMI deputy general manager S. Bharathi, Think City urban solutions programme director Dr Matt Benson and Penang Island City Council engineering director A. Rajendran.

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