

Double track project to create RM15b in downstream activities

The Ipoh-Padang Besar EDTP will provide an immediate economic stimulus to the local economy

By T VIGNESH

THE electrified double track project (EDTP) from Ipoh to Padang Besar is estimated to generate RM15 billion worth of downstream economic activities over a period of five years.

MMC-Gamuda executive director Datuk Azmi Mat Nor said the EDPT is able to provide an immediate economic stimulus to the local economy and provide substantial employment opportunities and work contracts in four states, namely, Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis.



To date, the EDTP, worth some RM12.49b, has created 7,000 new jobs, says Azmi

He said among its far-ranging benefits, the EDTP is currently the only construction project with multiplier effects generating growth into the economy, providing employment for locals, benefiting local sub-contractors and material suppliers while pumping

revenue into local businesses in these four states.

Azmi told reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday that to date, the EDTP, worth some RM12.49 billion, has created 7,000 new jobs (of which, 90% are for locals and 10% for foreigners).

At the peak of the project, there will be a further 6,000 job openings bringing the pay-out in salaries and benefits to over RM2 billion.

He said the employment provided includes jobs in civil works, building, structure, track works, mechanical and electronic works, system works, design consultants as well as management and supervisory staff.

Azmi said 21.4% of the project, worth RM2.8 billion, had been completed in just over 15 months and he expects the project to be completed by Jan 7, 2013.

He said to date 92% of works for the 329-kilometre EDPT has been handed out with 400 sub-contracts being awarded to 1,600 contractors.

Azmi said the project is expected to award another 100 contracts worth RM2 billion in stages until end of the first quarter of next year.

He said the sub-contracts include works for construction packages such as structure works, civil works, utilities, specialised and system works as well as material purchases. Azmi said Penang has secured 120 contracts, Perak 13, Kedah 120 and Perlis 27 contracts.

"The purchase for material such as concrete products, quarry materials, steel products, plant and machinery and others to date amount to RM3 billion," Azmi said.