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Ipoh-Padang Besar double-tracking project moving fast

BUTTERWORTH: Work on the 329km Ipoh-Padang Besar electrified double-tracking project (EDTP) is progressing rapidly with 5% physical progress achieved, since it was taken over on Jan 8, its contractors said yesterday.

The contractors, a joint venture between MMC Corporation Bhd and Gamuda Bhd, MMC-Gamuda, expect to complete the RM12.49 billion project in 2013 as scheduled.

At a media briefing here yesterday, MMC-Gamuda director Datuk Azmi Mat Nor said works from Ipoh to Padang Besar were divided into eight packages that stretched from the heart of Perak to Padang Besar, the border town with Thailand, covering the states of Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis.

"The infrastructure works in the northern states of Penang, Kedah and Perlis include over 196km of railway tracks, stations, depots, halts, yards and bridges.

"While the system works compris-

ing the relocation of existing services, electrification systems, signalling systems and communication systems are to be completed within the five-year period," he said.

Works are ongoing simultaneously throughout Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis. Azmi said, in Prai, a new swing bridge would be built to accommodate the new electrified double-tracking system.

He said up to RM3 billion worth of construction packages had been awarded to deserving contractors and of the total amount, up to RM1.6 billion (53%) had been awarded to bumiputera contractors.

"A further RM2.8 billion worth of projects will be awarded in stages where RM1 billion will be allocated to bumiputera contractors for the construction of earthworks, ground treatment, foundation works, supplies of construction materials, ballast, concrete piles and systems," he said. — *Bernama*