

Double-track rail project generates RM25bil spin-offs

PETALING JAYA: The multiplier effect from work packages and jobs awarded by the electrified double-track project will generate an estimated RM25 billion worth of downstream economic spin-offs.

The RM12.485 billion 329km track passing through Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis is set for completion on schedule in December 2013.

The project is to contribute 0.75% to the national gross domestic product.

"The multiplier effect of the project is far-reaching and is probably one of the biggest money spinner to benefit the four states," said MMC-Gamuda Joint Venture Sdn Bhd project executive director Datuk Ir Azmi Mat Nor.

MMC-Gamuda is the main contractor for the Ipoh-Padang Besar route.

To date, 540 or 90% of work packages awarded are in various stages of construction - earth work; piling; structural work; systems and electrification; mechanical and electrical; and communication.

"Local contractors from the northern region were given priority for sub-contracting jobs like earth clearing work; dredging; structural work; systems; communications;

electrification; and raw material supply," he told a media conference yesterday.

The overall work progress stands at 45% currently.

About 170 bumiputra sub-contractors in Class A to Class F have been awarded 350 work packages ranging from RM1 million to RM1 billion.

To date, contracts worth RM4.1 billion have been awarded to bumiputra contractors, more than 50% of total contract value, said Azmi.

He said bumiputra and non-bumiputra sub-contractors were selected strictly based on merit, experience, ability and capability to deliver the awarded job within the speci-

fied timeframe.

"A stringent selection process is adhered to so that only qualified sub-contractors are awarded (job packages)," he said, adding that 30 contractors were terminated as their work performance was not up to mark.

"Such measures are crucial as the project can't afford to fail," said Azmi.

As for job opportunities, he said, MMC-Gamuda had directly provided jobs to 150,000 people including 3,000 local engineers. - Bernama