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No reason for dispute over project, says YTL

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YTL Corp Bhd dismissed as mere speculation talk that there was a dispute between its wholly-owned YTL Land Bhd and monorail concessionaire KL PRT Sdn Bhd over the construction of the monorail's first station adjacent to the Lot 10 shopping centre in Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur.

YTL managing director Tan Sri Francis Yeoh Sock Ping said it was merely speculation by certain quarters, referring to a recent report that there were differences between both parties over the project.

Yeoh said there was no reason for any dispute over the People Rapid Transit (PRT) project, which is aimed at facilitating commuting within the city.

He said both parties were working together to enhance city life and to find the best way to accommodate members of the public who would be using the PRT.

The RM1.2 billion PRT project is an elevated 14.5km monorail along several busy roads in Kuala Lumpur.

According to a recent report, the monorail project - which was earlier put on hold due to the economic slowdown - had suffered yet another setback due to differences of opinion between YTL Land - owner of Lot 10 - and KL PRT on the construction of the monorail's first station.

The report added that both parties had earlier agreed to simultaneously start work on the monorail station and "Bintang Walk" project so as not to cause any inconvenience to the public.

Meanwhile, Yeoh said the underlying objective of Bintang Walk is to re-energise the street and make it a "happening" place to see and be seen at. One of the initial projects involves constructing the Bintang Walk from Lot 10 shopping centre to Starhill Centre and the JW Marriott Hotel - beautifying and turning a 3km walkway along Jalan Bukit Bintang into sidewalk cafes.

"We have created an attractive pedestrian walkway and added about 100 shady trees, huge terracotta pots filled with flowering plants, water columns and lots of alfresco dining areas.

"The surroundings are indeed beautiful, created with a European texture, but it is unmistakable that you are in the tropics with brightly coloured blossoms, different varieties of palm trees and Tecoma trees."

All the various components of Bintang Walk will be completed by December 1.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to officially open Bintang Walk on December 7.

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