

Johor port prepares for official opening by PM on Mar 13

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BY OUR REPORTER

WORKMEN are putting the finishing touches on the Port Administration Building (PAB) and Commercial Office and Administration Building (COAB) in time for the opening of the Port of Tanjung Pelepas.

The COAB is expected to house banks, government agencies including Immigration Department, Johor Port Authority staff, Customs, Marine Department, Agriculture Department and Department of Health. Work on both buildings, commenced on October 16 1998.

The completion and handover date is scheduled for mid-March 2000. The total area for the PAB is 6,044 sq metres and the COAB, 6500 sq metres. Current work on both buildings are now in the final stage comprising interior design and information technology (IT) installation, PTP said in a statement.

The remaining office space in the COAB has been reserved for shipping lines,

and other shipping and port-related companies. PTP management and administration staff, currently operating from a temporary office in Johor Bahru will soon be looking forward to operating from its new high-tech Port Administration building.

PTP Staff are expected to be relocate by end March 2000.

PTP, currently operational with the first two berths is also completing the wharf deck of the remaining 4 berths by early April. Berths 3 and 4 will however only begin operations in mid-2000 in line with installation of the next batch of 6 Super Post Panamax quayside cranes and completion of the container yard blocks D, E and F.

The last two berths are scheduled to begin operations in mid-2001.

The container yard, upon full completion in mid-2001 will see PTP having a storage space of 110,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). This will see PTP having one of the largest storage facilities in

the region.

With construction on schedule, PTP management staff are looking forward to the opening amidst PTP 2000 Conference and Exhibition, which has been timed to coincide with the port's opening.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to open the port on March 13.

A conference and exhibition on PTP 2000 will be held simultaneously with the launching of the port.

Approximately 300 guests are expected to attend the opening of PTP 2000, and they include representatives from relevant government agencies, heads of main line operators, feeder operators, warehousing and logistic company representatives and other industry representatives.

The conference proper will see at least 150 delegates comprising port representatives, shipping line representatives and port planners.