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Pekan Rabu

PEKAN RABU TO GET RM13 MILLION FACELIFT

ALOR SETAR, April 18 (Bernama) -- Pekan Rabu will be renovated at a cost of RM13 million to improve its image as a trading centre for Bumiputeras and a tourist attraction.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said the bazaar would be renamed Pekan Rabu-Che Det Mall after the project was completed in six months' time.

The upgrading work would involve the construction of a kilometre-long Che Det Walk along Jalan Tunku Ibrahim in front of the complex, he told reporters after performing the ground-breaking for the project here today.

Che Det is the nickname given by locals to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was a trader at Pekan Rabu before he became a doctor.

Pekan Rabu is popular with local and foreign tourists shopping for clothes, handicraft and traditional Malay delicacies.

Syed Razak said the former five-storey Mara office building in the area would be converted into a budget hotel.

An open area between Pekan Rabu and Empire Arked will be turned into a venue for holding cultural and art performances. Coffee kiosks will also be built there.

A 70m stretch of Sungai Raja next to Pekan Rabu will also be developed into a pedestrian mall known as Dataran Sungai Raja.

Syed Razak said an office block in Taman Jubli Perak here was being converted into a memorial in honour of the country's first prime minister, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman.

The memorial, expected to be opened soon, will display items not found in the Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial in Kuala Lumpur.

-- BERNAMA

JM YBY