

# What next for heritage building?

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**PENANG:** The fate of the Hotel 1926 building on Burmah Road will be decided within the next two weeks.

The property owner, Penang Development Corporation (PDC), which has taken back possession of the property, is anxious to put it to good use.

PDC acting general manager Datuk Rosli Jaafar, who visited the property on Monday, said it is looking at several options on what to do with the heritage building.

"We definitely have to do this fast and I will need to go to our board of directors to see what is the best for this property," he said, while declining to give any details of the plans.

Rosli said he will meet the board within the next two weeks to decide on future plans for the property.

PDC regained possession

of the building after hotel management, Kompas Mutiara Sdn Bhd, was served with a writ of possession on Sept 14.

The hotel had ceased operations last year after Kompas Mutiara was served with a writ of seizure and sale in July last year.

PDC had filed a suit against Kompas Mutiara to recover rental, commission and interests owing to them.

On May 31 last year, a High Court ordered Kompas Mutiara to pay PDC arrears on rental, and commission including interest amounting to RM1,734,164.

The hotel management was also ordered to vacate the premises as its lease on the budding ended on July 31, 2004.

However, Kompas Mutiara obtained a stay of execution



on the vacant possession on July 12 last year pending its application to set aside the judgement.

This application was dismissed with costs by the High Court in July this year.

The hotel management had filed an appeal against this decision but was not granted a stay of execution.

Last month, the hotel management was given two

weeks to deliver vacant possession of the property to PDC. It is learnt that the hotel management still owed PDC over RM1.65mil.

The double-storey heritage building on Burmah Road was built as the residence of colonial officers in 1926.

It was turned into living quarters for civil servants but was later left unoccupied for several years.