

IN TWO PHASES OVER 20 YEARS

Ipoh Sentral project aimed at redefining city's connectivity

IPOH: The Ipoh Sentral development is poised to transform the city's connectivity landscape by reducing dependence on private vehicles and lowering carbon emissions.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday officiated at the groundbreaking for the 27.1ha project, which will integrate bus and rail services.

The development will be rolled out in two phases over the next 20 years.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke has described the transport-oriented project as a catalyst to reshape Ipoh into a more efficient, people-friendly and sustainable city.

Although Ipoh Sentral will be constructed adjacent to the historic 1917 Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd (KTMB) station, the heritage building will remain untouched.

Loke also gave assurance that nearby houses of worship and other cultural landmarks would not be affected, following a decree by the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, to preserve such sites.

The public-private partnership, involving the Railway Assets Corporation (RAC), the Perak government, and Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd (MRCB), aims to ease the govern-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim officiating at the groundbreaking for the Ipoh Sentral project, in Ipoh yesterday. Present are Transport Minister Anthony Loke (third from right), Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad (fourth from left) and MRCB Land Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Mohd Annuar Zaini (right) BERNAMA PIC

ment's financial commitment.

The project will be developed by MRCB's wholly-owned subsidiary, Country Annexe Sdn Bhd (CASB), together with Ipoh Sentral Sdn Bhd (ISSB).

Loke had said that Ipoh Sen-

tral's success should ultimately be gauged by its ability to revitalise the city's economy, boost rail passenger numbers and generate returns for the government, RAC, and MRCB.

With an estimated gross devel-

opment value of RM6.3 billion and development costs of RM5.6 billion, the project is forecast to yield a total profit of RM630 million, or about RM32 million annually, according to CIMB Securities Sdn Bhd in a note in July.