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## **SIA BOEY REJUVENATION PROJECT TO RESTORE ICONIC LANDMARK IN GEORGE TOWN**

GEORGE TOWN: Sia Boey is set to become an iconic landmark in George Town again through the Sia Boey Rejuvenation Project headed by the Penang Development Corporation (PDC) in cooperation with George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI).

The project's Phase One, to be carried out at a cost of approximately RM6mil, is scheduled to be completed in August 2018. It includes the rehabilitation of the Prangin Canal, conservation of the old Prangin Market and upgrading of the site's landscaping. Phase Two of the project will involve the restoration of the shophouses and the upgrading of its surrounding landscape. Owned by PDC, the Sia Boey site is the KOMTAR Phase 5 development project.

A public exhibition showcasing the project's overall concept plan will be held at the Sia Boey Market from 25 March 2018 to 30 March 2018 and at the GTWHI office in Lebuah Aceh from 2 April 2018 to 6 April 2018. Open from 8am to 5pm, the exhibition is open to the public to provide feedback on the project.

PDC general manager Datuk Rosli Jaafar said they would redevelop and conserve Sia Boey while prioritising the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings and providing ample public space.

“Sia Boey will be turned into an urban park that functions as both a cultural heritage centre and green lung for George Town.

“It will be a sustainable and liveable public space in line with George Town's listing as a UNESCO World Heritage Site,” he said at the project's launch on Sunday, 25 March 2018.

Sia Boey, also known as Ujung Pasir, was once a bustling market filled with commercial and cultural activities; and a display of Penang's culture, heritage and commerce in its heyday.

In 2016, a granite structure was uncovered at the Sia Boey site, and identified to be the Old Prangin Canal Basin by Universiti Sains Malaysia's Centre for Global Archaeological Research. Following this development, GTWHI was appointed the Project Manager of the Sia Boey Archeological Site, one of the largest archaeological sites in George Town.

The discovery of archaeological sites in Sia Boey has also led to the formation of a new site management plan which emphasises the coexistence of development and heritage conservation carried out by PDC and GTWHI.

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