



WALKABOUT: Raja Nong Chik (centre) and his team visiting Puduraya yesterday

Puduraya upgrade not waste of funds

By PEARL LEE

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FEDERAL Territories Minister Datuk Raja Nong Chik Raja Zainal Abidin believes the upgrading works carried out in the Puduraya bus terminal would not go to waste when it is turned into a city bus terminal.

"I do not feel it is a waste of money as it will give comfort to a lot of people," he said on the RM30.3 million makeover for Puduraya by UEM Holdings Bhd.

"The bus terminal in Bandar Tasik Selatan will only be ready next year and about 100 buses will go to that terminal. There will still be buses around here," he said after a walkabout in the Puduraya building yesterday.

Malay Mail on July 3 reported that a total of RM30.3 million had

been allocated for the upgrading of Puduraya that would be completed by the end of next year.

The three-stage makeover will see the 33-year-old bus hub being refurbished with escalators, walkalators, a bigger and more comfortable waiting area akin to that found at airports and the introduction of electronic ticket booking facilities.

It was also reported that the remaining buses in Puduraya (northbound) were expected to be shifted to either Selayang or Gombak as announced by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz.

During his walkabout, Raja Nong Chik, who was accompanied by Deputy Federal Territories Minister Datuk M. Saravanan, Federal Territories secretary-general Datuk Ahmad Phesal Talib, KL mayor Datuk Ahmad Fuad Ismail along

with City Hall directors and Bukit Bintang Member of Parliament Fong Kui Lun, spent about 40 minutes inspecting the progress of upgrading works in the terminal.

The group also visited the new waiting area which can accommodate more than 700 people and is expected to be completed before Hari Raya in September.

The entourage then went on a walkabout in Petaling Street while taking the opportunity to exchange notes with traders and tourists in the area.

Raja Nong Chik said that the rooftop in Petaling Street as well as the roofs of traders' stalls would be replaced, especially those who were now using canvas or plastic makeshift roofs.

He said the upgrading works of the roofs would cost about RM2 million and would be handled by

City Hall. It will commence work within the next few weeks.

Asked if he was pleased with the fact that foreign workers were nowhere to be seen in the area, Raja Nong Chik hoped all parties would cooperate to ensure that the area was free of foreign workers.

"Ideally this is what we want. But of course you cannot expect us to go hunting down these foreign workers everywhere right up to the toilets."

Meanwhile, both Datuk Ang Say Tee, vice-president of the Kuala Lumpur Hawkers and Petty Traders Association, and Fong welcomed the move to upgrade the roofs which were last fixed in 2001.

They said it were in dire need of repair as there have been instances when parts of the roofs fell off, hitting customers in the area.