

# Proposal to revitalise Sia Boey



By N. TRISHA

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(Front row, from left) Aziz, Pengkalan Kota assemblyman Daniel Gooi and Chow looking at the Sia Boey Komtarm phase five project. — CHAN BOON KAI/The Star

THE picturesque Sia Boey in George Town, which covers 1.89ha of land with shophouses and a market hall, is an area with much potential to become a hub for locals and tourists.

With that in mind, Deputy Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow announced a Request for Tenancy (RTT)

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“Sia Boey, also known as the Urban Archeological Park and Prangin Canal, was upgraded a few years ago.

“What is lacking now is the utilisation of space.

“The RFT has been advertised on Penang Development Corporation’s (PDC) website since Aug 16 and the closing date for submission is noon on Oct 11.

“The primary goal of the RFT is to revitalise Sia Boey as part of Komtar’s phase five development project.

“The period of the tenancy agreement is 15 years with five years on each renewal term.



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“Bidders are required to consult George Town World Heritage Incorporated (GTWHI) about their suggested activities on the site,” he said at a press conference held at his office in Komtar.

Chow, who is also PDC chairman, invited interested parties to submit proposals.

“They need to take note of heritage guidelines when making their proposals.

“There are buildings on the land, like the market hall and shophouses, that can be used as a commercial component,” he said.

Chow noted that the tenancy would not involve or allow the building of high-rises or hotels.

“I encourage interested parties to access PDC’s official website for further information.

“We are hopeful that Sia Boey’s revitalisation through this PET will restore its appeal,” he added.

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“It will complement other aspects in the town area like Komtar’s phases one, two, three and four.

“We hope to get interested parties who are passionate about the project, as it involves preservation.

“We need people who are interested in not just preserving the facade but to have activities aligned with heritage too,” said Aziz.

The Sia Boey Rejuvenation Project, spearheaded by PDC and GTWHI, was launched on March 24, 2018, to facilitate the co-existence of development and heritage conservation.

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