

## Local contractors to be awarded at least 30pct civil works for ECRL in April

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(File pix) Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd head of construction Noor Azlan Salleh says the contracts, valued at 'a few billion ringgit', will see two sets of tenders to be dished out this year, one in April and the next possibly in October.

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**BENTONG:** Up to 30 per cent of the civil works contracts for the RM55 billion East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project will be awarded to local contractors in April.

Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd head of construction Noor Azlan Salleh said the contracts, valued at 'a few billion ringgit', will see two sets of tenders to be dished out this year, one in April and the next possibly in October.

It was reported that Gamuda Bhd, IJM Corp Bhd, Gabungan AQRS Bhd, WCT Holdings Bhd, WZ Satu Bhd and Fajarbaru Builder Group Bhd being the serious contenders and will see a boost their orderbook if they clinch the deal.

"What we are trying to do this year is to start infrastructure works, specifically the permanent works. Advanced works are currently being handled by the main contractor, China Communications Construction Company.

"To start the permanent work, 30 per cent of civil works will be awarded to local contractors in April. But works for the local contractors are not just limited to that. They get to bid for other works like system works and so on," he told a media briefing here.

"We have no exact value for the first tender to be awarded to the local contractors as we are still formulating the whole thing but it is estimated to be a few billion ringgit," he added.

Azlan said 60 per cent of the total construction works for the ECRL project consists of infrastructure works and the remaining 40 per cent make up the system works.