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CONSTRUCTION

Malaysian contractor branches out

After building Baan Ua-arthorn low-cost housing in Thailand, the Malaysia-based contractor Bina Puri (Thailand) plans to seek more construction jobs from the private sector, bidding for five projects worth combined three billion baht.

"The Thai economy remains healthy and will continue to grow in the next 10-15 years, seen from the population which is double the Malaysian population," said the company's executive chairman, Dato' Mohamed Feisal Bin Ibrahim.

The bidding outcome for the five projects will be announced in September.

Amid rising construction costs, the group will focus on cost and construction management, as well as speed as its strengths. It is also looking to develop some residential projects in Thailand.

Currently, the Thai unit is handling construction of some residential projects with a total construction value of 16.5 billion baht, including TCC Capital Land's S&S Condominium and Areeya Property's three 'a Space' projects.

At the same time, it is joining with Deva Development in a turnkey contract for Baan Ua-arthorn low-cost housing with 31,100 units and total construction value of 13 billion baht.

The company yesterday delivered the Nadee project, part of the Baan Ua-arthorn programme, on a 26-rai site in Samut Sakhon, where it had joined Deva Development. The site has 27 four-storey condominium buildings with 1,288 units worth more than 500 million baht.

Dato' Mohamed said the company used an innovative tunnel formwork system to replace conventional reinforced concrete post-and-beam structures with reinforced concrete shear walls. "This design with the technological innovations added more internal space," he said.

The ultimate advantage of the use of a tunnel form system with shear wall design is savings in terms of construction time, reduced workforce and higher structural integrity for the buildings, he said.

Currently, Bina Puri Group has construction jobs worth 21 billion baht in hand, of which 40% are in Malaysia. It aims to achieve 6.2 billion baht in revenues by the end of the year, of which 5.5 billion would come from Malaysia and 700 million from Thailand.

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