

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## WCT's Construction Business To Drive Growth

**SELANGOR, Thursday, 1 June 2017** – WCT Holdings Berhad ("WCT" or "the Group") is confident that its existing three core business activities, namely engineering and construction, property development as well as property investment and management, are well positioned to continue to deliver a sustainable growth to the Group in the foreseeable future.

Following the Group's Sixth Annual General Meeting today, **Dato' Lee Tuck Fook, Group Managing Director of WCT**, said, "Despite the competitive operating landscape, the Group's overall financial position and performance outlook remains encouraging. To date, the Group's outstanding construction orderbook remains healthy at RM4.8 billion while unbilled sales from our property development business stood at RM487.0 million as at 31 March 2017.

"This year, we have secured a RM186.0 million contract to undertake and complete the Phase 1 of the Johan Setia Depot and associated works for Light Rail Transit Line 3 (LRT3) from Bandar Utama to Johan Setia. Given the Government's continued commitment towards strategic infrastructure development and spending, we expect our Engineering and Construction Division to be able to continue to secure more civil and infrastructure-related contracts this year."

"In terms of property development, we will adopt a more cautious approach by focusing on our on-going projects and aim to achieve a sales target of approximately RM500 million for the next 12 to 18 months."

"Meanwhile, our Property Investment Division is expected to continue to contribute positively to the Group's earnings moving forward. Moreover, the Group is excited about the prospects of the 1.3 million sq. ft Paradigm Mall Johor Bahru as well as New World Petaling Jaya Hotel at Paradigm in Kelana Jaya which are both slated to be opened in the last quarter of 2017," he added.

WCT recently announced that it had registered a net profit jump of 276%, from RM8.8 million for the first quarter last financial year to RM33.1 million for the first quarter ended 31 March 2017.

The improvement in profit came despite revenue being marginally lower at RM473.4 million for the quarter under review compared to RM485.0 million recorded in the same quarter last financial year. This is reflective of the Group's ability to derive better margins from projects undertaken by its construction division.

The Group had recently undertaken a number of corporate exercises in line with the Group's degearing plan, namely the sale and leaseback of The Ascent office tower together with an elevated carpark to the Employees Provident Fund Board ("EPF") for a total cash consideration of RM347 million as well as the private placement of 100.5 million of new ordinary shares to raise about RM178 million proceeds for repayment of bank borrowings as well as to finance working capital requirements. Dato' Lee commented, "Moving forward, we will continue to intensify our property sales and undertake certain asset disposals to strengthen our financial position."

WCT also propose a final single tier share dividend on the basis of one (1) treasury share for every one hundred and sixty five (165) existing ordinary shares held in the Company in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2016 subject to shareholders' approval at today's AGM.

## **About WCT Holdings Berhad**

Founded in 1981, WCT was listed on the Bursa Malaysia in 1995. Currently with 2,000 employees and presence in six countries, WCT is an investment holding company involved in engineering and construction, property development and investment & management activities. Its engineering and construction expertise covers F1 racing circuits, airports, dams and water supply schemes, expressways and highways, civil works, interior fit-out works and buildings. The company's property development and investment & management portfolio includes townships, luxury homes, high-rise residences, industrial properties, offices, integrated commercial developments, concessions, hotels and shopping malls. WCT owns and operates Première Hotel, Klang and owns 3 shopping malls – Bukit Tinggi Shopping Centre in Klang, Paradigm Mall in Petaling Jaya, and the integrated complex – gateway@klia2 in Sepang, Selangor. WCT currently has a land bank of approximately 950 acres in Malaysia. For more information about WCT, please visit wct.com.my.