



NEWS RELEASE

WCT Signs RM347 million Sale and Leaseback Agreement with EPF for The Ascent

PETALING JAYA, Thursday, 23 February 2017 – WCT Holdings Berhad (WCT or the Group), a leading engineering and construction as well as property company, announced today that it has via its 70%-owned joint-controlled entity, Jelas Puri Sdn Bhd (JPSB), entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement (SPA) with the Employees Provident Fund Board (EPF) for the disposal of The Ascent office tower and an elevated car park for a total cash consideration of RM347 million. JPSB is 30% owned by EPF.

The proposed disposal involves the Class A 32-storey corporate office tower, *The Ascent*, which comprise retail lots, a concourse level, offices and an elevated car park that has 865 bays, both adjoining Paradigm Mall Petaling Jaya. These assets have a total gross floor area of about 1 million square feet.

Concurrently, the Group also announced two 15-year leaseback agreements with the EPF that include the leaseback of *The Ascent* to WCT Properties Sdn Bhd (WCT Properties), a wholly-owned subsidiary of WCT, as well as the leaseback of the elevated car park to JPSB.

“The proposed disposal is in line with the Groupwide de-gearing initiatives and is aimed at lowering our debt levels and strengthening our overall financial position. We intend to utilise proceeds from the disposal to repay our borrowings and to fund on-going development activities within the Paradigm Integrated Development in Petaling Jaya,” **said Dato’ Lee Tuck Fook, a director of WCT.**

“With the leaseback arrangements, our Group can continue to operate and run The Ascent and the elevated car park which complement our Paradigm retail mall for the next 15 years after the sale to the EPF,” he explained.

The proposed sale and leaseback exercise is set to be completed in the 2nd quarter of 2017. The proposed leases are not expected to have any material effect on the earnings of the Group for the financial year ending 31 December 2017.

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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. The modern gateway@klia2 is the Group's third retail project and is part of the long-term concession with Malaysia Airport Holdings Berhad. WCT currently has a land bank of approximately 924 acres in Malaysia. For more information about WCT, please visit www.wct.com.my.