

# Ivory shines in debut on investor optimism

## IPO WATCH

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SHARES of Penang-based developer Ivory Properties Group Bhd made a strong debut on the stock market yesterday, reflecting investors' optimism over the property industry.

The stock opened at RM1.15, a 15 per cent premium over its initial public offering (IPO) price of RM1, but it gathered strength and closed for a 30 per cent premium at RM1.30 yesterday.

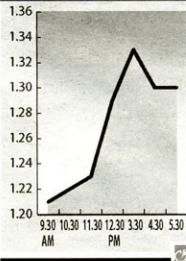
In contrast, the broader market rose 2.96 points to close at 1355.19 points.

Ivory, which has ongoing projects worth RM834.1 million, is the first property company to be listed on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia this year.

Chairman and group chief executive officer Datuk Low Eng Hock said the next step is to form joint ventures in the Middle East and Indonesia for township and mixed-developments.

He expects overseas markets to make up 30 per cent

## IVORY PROPERTIES GROUP



of its revenue in the next few years.

Ivory is now 100 per cent focused in Penang. Still, it has plans to do mixed-development projects in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

"There are better deals overseas. The Middle East is a special region. We are eyeing a state within the United Arab Emirates that has great potential for high-end housing," Low said.

"In Indonesia, there is a big market for us as many of our existing property buyers come from there. They have asked us to do commercial and residential

properties," Low said.

Ivory may form a joint venture with a local Indonesian firm by the year-end to undertake a mixed-development project there next year.

At a press conference after the listing, Low said, Ivory is launching new projects worth RM1.9 billion in Penang and Tanjung Malim in Perak.

They include new phases within existing projects like Penang Times Square, Mount Erskine Development, Island Resort and Aston Villa. The projects will keep it busy for five to seven years, he said.

"We will embark on joint ventures with landowners in Penang and Kuala Lumpur to enhance the value of land," he said.

Ivory's IPO entailed a public issue of 44.9 million new ordinary shares of 50 sen each at an issue price of RM1 per share.

A bulk of the RM44.9 million raised from the IPO is for working capital to fund development projects. Ivory is forecasting a proforma consolidated net profit of RM33.9 million the year to December 31 2010.