



# Restoration hitches

Stop-work orders have been issued to contractor of Goddess of Mercy Temple project for failure to obtain council approval. >3

## Project hits a snag

### Demolition and ground levelling works halted

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**R**ESTORATION works of the 211-year-old Guan Yin or Goddess of Mercy Temple have run into a hitch due to two stop-work orders issued by the Penang Municipal Council (MPPP) last week.

The stop-work orders were issued for the ground levelling and demolition works being carried out behind the main temple building.

State Local Government and Traffic Management Committee chairman Chow Kon Yeow said: "The works, which are part of Phase Two of the temple's restoration project, are being done without the council's approval."

He said the council did not issue the approval as the temple had yet to submit its plans for Phase

Two of the project to the council.

During a visit to the temple that Phase One, which involved renovation works of the temple's interior, was approved in 2010, he said yesterday.

He said the levelling and demolition works were carried out for the construction of a temporary site where the deities and idols would be relocated before commencement of the project's Phase One.

Chow, who is also Padang Kota assemblyman, said a meeting led by the George Town World Heritage Incorporated and other agencies such as the National Heritage Department, the council and representatives from the temple management would be held tomorrow.

He said the meeting would discuss technical details and a proposal to expedite the restoration works.

Architect Ong Keng Poh assured that the temple would adhere to all guidelines by the council in future restoration works.

It was reported that the restoration project at the temple on Jalan Mesjid Kapitan Keling would take about two and a half years at a cost of RM6mil.

Zinc roofing was put up as temporary measure after the temple was partly damaged by falling roof tiles during a downpour on Oct 17, last year.

The temple, which sits within the Unesco heritage enclave, is a tourist attraction and an iconic landmark.

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**Stumbling block:** Ground levelling and demolition works behind the Goddess of Mercy Temple in Penang



**Behind the scene:** A press photographer taking photos of the construction site.