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The Battersea Power Station southwest chimney has reached a level of 25m.

Photo by Anthony Coleman

BY YIMIE YONG

KUALA LUMPUR: Battersea Power Station Development Co Ltd (BPSDC) said the first of the four chimneys to be meticulously rebuilt has reached a level of 25m above the higher point of the wash tower brickwork and work will start very soon to dismantle and rebuild the other three chimneys.

In a statement yesterday, the company said London Borough of Wandsworth's (LBW) independent engineer inspected the new chimney last Monday and LBW representatives officially signed off that the chimney has reached the required 25m height.

The rebuild programme is designed to ensure that the four chimneys which soar above the power station, iconic structures that are instantly recognisable and a much-loved feature of London's skyline, are safeguarded for future generations to enjoy, said BPSDC.

"We are very proud of this achievement and with work to

start soon on the other three chimneys," said BPSDC chief executive officer Rob Tincknell.

With another 10m of new chimney lying inside the brick wash tower, the southwest chimney will be restored to its full height of 50m before the end of 2015.

The rebuild programme, which uses the same materials and construction principles to ensure the new chimneys are rebuilt to be visually identical to the originals, will conclude by late summer 2016, said BPSDC. Once the rebuild work is completed, all four chimneys will then be painted.

According to Battersea Power Station's website, it was the first London power station to use reinforced concrete chimneys. The first chimney built was the north-west chimney in 1931 and the final chimney built was the southeast chimney in 1955.

Battersea Power Station is owned by a consortium of Malaysian investors, comprising S P Setia Bhd, Sime Darby Bhd and the Employees Provident Fund.