



MEDIA RELEASE

OVER 30 DIALOGUES HELD FOR THE KLANG VALLEY MRT

Kuala Lumpur, 9 May 2011 – The Suruhanjaya Pengangkutan Awam Darat (SPAD) has organised over 30 public engagement sessions with Local Councils, Members of Parliaments (MPs), Residents Associations and business owners on the proposed Sungai Buloh-Kajang mass rapid transit (MRT) project since the start of the Public Display of the project's railway scheme in February this year, underscoring SPAD's commitment to continuously engaging the public over the project.

In the past week, the supervising agency of the Klang Valley MRT project met with the members of the Medan Damansara Residents Association, residents of Kota Damansara as well as other parts of Petaling Jaya such as Damansara Kim, Bandar Utama, and Sections 16 and 17 Petaling Jaya. It also briefed close to 500 people who attended an MRT Forum organised by Federal Territory MCA. Earlier sessions had been held for residents, businesses, state assemblymen and Members of Parliament from Sungai Buloh, Cheras and Kajang as well as certain areas in Taman Tun Dr. Ismail and Bangsar.

These public engagements offered the public a platform to voice their opinions on matters pertaining to the MRT project and resulted in a positive outcome as they all believe in the initiative despite a few reservations.

During the engagement with the Medan Damansara Residents Association, the residents supported the development of the MRT and asked SPAD to maintain the proposed Sungai Buloh - Kajang mass rapid transit (MRT) alignment in their area.

“We have been hearing rumours about our houses being acquired if the project were to proceed. We are relieved to know that we do not have to move out as long as the proposed elevated section of the line that goes past our neighbourhood is retained,” said a spokesperson from the association. The dialogue was attended by some 60 Medan Damansara residents.



At the MRT Forum organised by Federal Territory MCA, various issues were raised including matters related to land acquisition, how many families and businesses that would have to be relocated to make way for the project, and the amount of compensation involved. MCA Federal Territory Liaison Committee Chairman, Datuk Seri Tan Chai Ho commended SPAD's effort in giving a clearer picture of what the MRT is all about and how it benefits the rakyat in the long run.

"We are satisfied with the briefing by SPAD especially in explaining to us about the land acquisition process and how affected residents and business owners will be fairly reimbursed based on the market value," said Datuk Seri Tan.

More than 100 Kota Damansara took part in an engagement session with SPAD, raising issues of concern about the MRT project including the importance of a reliable feeder bus system to transport passengers to and from the MRT stations, and how some stations are situated far away from densely populated residential areas.

Meanwhile, some 60 residents, councilors and state assemblymen from Petaling Jaya gave their views on the proposed MRT alignment, station locations, project cost and transparency, and concerns about crime at neighbourhoods close to MRT stations. Other suggestions included mitigation measures to minimise traffic jams, location of park and ride facilities at the stations, and interconnectivity between the MRT, LRT and KTM Komuter. The event was organised by the Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya.

SPAD CEO Mohd Nur Kamal said: "The main objectives of these public engagement meetings are to raise knowledge and awareness of the MRT project and to engage the residents on how we can work together to improve the the project. We take public comments seriously and will look into all of the issues raised before making a final decision.

"We also encourage the Residents Associations and MPs to send a feedback, highlighting their concerns and suggestions so that we provide an efficient and seamless transport experience for the rakyat," he said. Mohd Nur added that as the supervising agency of the MRT project, SPAD would ensure that the public's feedback would be taken into consideration.



The MRT project is developed in the best interest and actual benefit of the rakyat, and it does more than just providing them with a dependable transport system. It generates new residential and economic areas, thus increasing business opportunities. The MRT will significantly reduce spending on travelling, decrease traffic and carbon emission, and increase productivity as passengers may never have to get stuck in traffic jams anymore.

The proposed MRT will form the backbone of the new sustainable transport system in the Klang Valley and was initiated by the Government as a Greater Kuala Lumpur/Lembah Klang National Key Economic Area effort under the Economic Transformation Programme. The planned construction period for the Sungai Buloh – Kajang line is from 2011 to 2016 and when completed will provide a fast train service to 1.2 million people along the route. The line will be integrated with existing KTM Komuter, LRT lines and feeder bus networks.

Public can continue to provide feedback at the Public Display venues, through the **toll free helpline number at 1800-82-6868** or **email to feedback@kvmrt.com.my**.

About SPAD

Suruhanjaya Pengangkutan Awam Darat (SPAD) was officially established on 3 June 2010 following the passing of the Land Public Transport Act 2010 by Parliament in May 2010. The Commission gained its full powers on 31 January 2011 with the gazetting of the Land Public Transport Act 2010. SPAD, which comes directly under the purview of the Prime Minister, brings the functions of drawing up policies, planning and regulating all aspects of train, bus and taxi services as well as road- and rail-based freight transport under one roof. The Commission also has enforcement powers which it will carry out with close cooperation with other enforcement agencies such as the Royal Malaysian Police and the Road Transport Department.

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