

Tunnelling work to be monitored

ASSURANCE: MRT Corp to make sure that there are no earth movements during the project

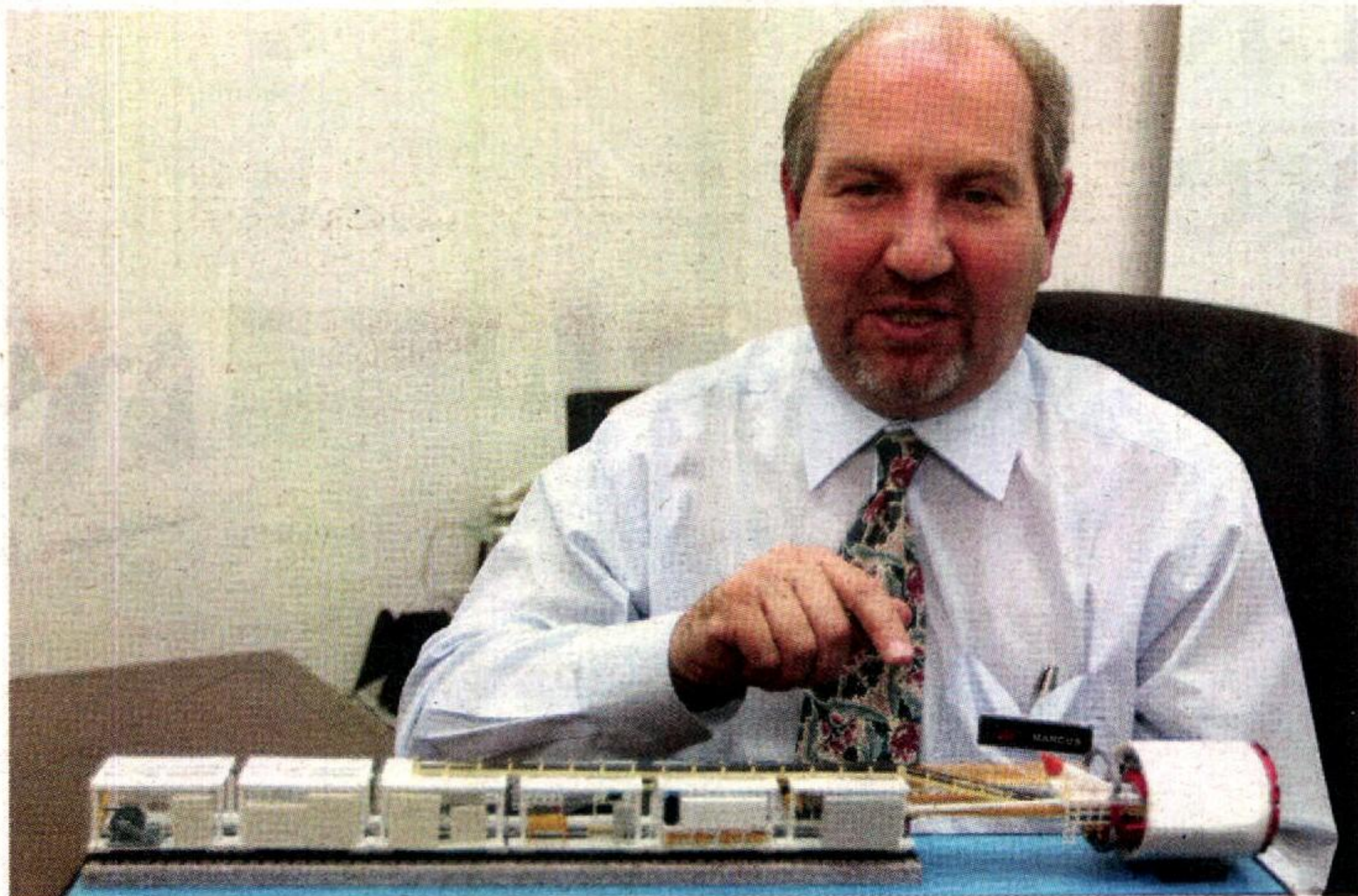
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MY Rapid Transit Corporation (MRT Corp) will be monitoring closely the 9.5km tunnelling project for the Sungai Buloh-Kajang MRT.

MRT Corp project director Marcus Karakashian said the tunnelling work will be monitored closely to ensure that there are no earth movements during the project.

"Our engineers will be monitoring

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Marcus Karakashian says that the tunnelling work will be done at four locations. Pic by Afendi Mohamed

Team to ensure public safety

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the roads and buildings where the tunnelling work is being done. We also have a team in place to ensure the public's safety in case of earth movements," he said.

Karakashian also explained that the MRT alignment was chosen to minimise the bends and keep a smooth direction flow when the tunnelling works take place.

"We didn't simply come up with the alignment.

"We had studied the flow and chosen the best alignment to minimise the turns during tunnelling works," he said.

Karakashian said that the tunnelling will be done at four locations in the city.

He said that the Earth Pressure Balance (EPB) tunnel boring machine (TBM) would be used to tunnel the Kenny Hill formation and Slurry TBM for the karstic limestone.

"Most of the areas we are tunnelling through are karstic limestones like the ones in Batu Caves.

fore doing any tunnelling work by filling the gaps with concrete.

"This will make it easy for the TBM to pass through," he said.

Karakashian also rubbished claims that all buildings need to be demolished when the 9.5km tunnelling project for the Sungai Buloh-Kajang MRT project takes place.

He said the buildings in Jalan Sultan are old, but they don't need to be demolished.

"Statements were made by people who don't understand what tunnelling involves. I have been to Jalan Sultan and I have seen the buildings there.

"What we want to do is assess the buildings before any tunnelling work is done," he said.

Karakashian also said that if the old buildings at Jalan Sultan need protection, MRT Corp will strengthen the buildings.

"We will discuss with the property owners and conduct a condition survey before any work takes place.

"We will assess all the extensions and defects and we will give a copy of the condition survey to the property

"Sometimes the timber beams are not strong and there are cracks in the buildings.

"We will then put in frames to keep the bricks work from moving during the tunnelling project. We will also repair any damages after the tunnelling work is completed," he said.

Karakashian said that if any building is not in good condition, then it is up to the authorities to ensure that the building does not pose a safety hazard.

"If the building is not safe, then the authorities must take action for the safety of the occupants," he said.

Karakashian also said that MRT Corp will try and reduce the duration of the tunnelling work.

"We are taking six months to complete the tunnelling project because all defects need to be checked and noted before construction works begin.

"Once everything is completed, the property owners can move back in and resume their businesses as usual.

"The property owners would also be compensated for the duration of the tunnelling project."

Karakashian said the only building that will be demolished, are the buildings that was acquired to build the MRT stations on.

The MRT project line will start from Sungai Buloh, cutting through Kuala Lumpur city centre to Kajang, which is 51km.

It will have a 9.5km underground tunnel between Jalan Semantan and Taman Maluri.



"We didn't simply come up with the alignment. We had studied the flow and chosen the best alignment to minimise the turns during tunnelling works."

Marcus Karakashian,
MRT Corp
project director

"We will strengthen the ground first before doing any tunnelling work by filling the gaps with concrete. owners.