

Work on MRT viaduct to begin in August

Project expected to be completed in 2Q of 2013, says MTD Construction

by FARAH SAAD

CONSTRUCTION on the RM500 million My Rapid Transit (MRT) Viaduct 7 (V7) work package for the Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) line is slated to begin on Aug 7, 2012.

The V7 package was awarded to MTD Construction Sdn Bhd in May this year, and involves the construction of the MRT viaduct guideway and other associated works over 3.8km from Bandar Tun Hussein Onn to Taman Mesra, Cheras, according to Mass Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) in a media release yesterday.

The viaduct will be the alignment for two MRT stations, near Balakong and Taman Koperasi, Cheras.

"Work is expected to be completed in the second-quarter (2Q) of 2013, and should cause minimal, if any, disruption to traffic flow," said MTD Construction executive vice president and head of construction and contracts Mohd Shukor Mohamed during a media conference in Kuala Lumpur.

The V7 package is part of the Bumiputera package which makes up 43% of the total value of the MRT project.

To date RM13.8 billion worth of work packages have already been awarded. Five out of a total of eight viaduct work packages have been awarded by MRT Corp so far.

The remaining packages, V2 (Kota Damansara-Dataran Sunway), V3 (Dataran Sunway-Sec-



Pic Shahrin Yahya

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tion 16) and V8 (Taman Mesra-Kajang), will be awarded in stages over the second and 3Q of 2012.

"The next viaduct package is currently being evaluated," said MMC Gamuda KVMRT Sdn Bhd general manager Adil Putra Ahmad after the media conference.

MMC Gamuda is a joint venture company assigned to manage the projects tendered out by MRT Corp. At the start of the project 85 work packages have been tendered out.

Absent from the press conference was MRT Corp director of strategic communications and public relations Amir Mahmood Razak.

It was announced on Tuesday

that the 38-year-old Bukit Bintang (BB) Plaza in Bukit Bintang will be torn down to make way for the construction of a MRT station, contradicting earlier announcements by MRT Corp that only the front of the building would be required.

Tenants of the mall, owned by UDA Holdings Bhd, have been asked to vacate the premises by the end of the year.

UDA Holdings senior vice president Syed Ahmad Nazri Syed Kamaruzaman, during a media conference for the company's annual general meeting on Tuesday, said it expects MRT Corp to compensate the tenants of BB Plaza.

MRT Corp representatives were not available for comment.