

# MRT works pick up pace

WITH construction awards for five out of eight viaduct packages (portions of the elevated line) announced so far, the MRT megaproject is picking up pace. The date by which MRT Corp has stated that the Sungai Buloh-Kajang line should be realised is June 2017.

The announced packages include Viaduct 1 or V1 (the line between Sg Buloh and Kota Damansara) to be constructed by Syarikat Muhibbah Perniagaan and Pembinaan Sdn Bhd, V5 (from Maluri to Plaza Phoenix) by IJM Construction Sdn Bhd and V6 (from Plaza Phoenix to Bandar Tun Hussein Onn) by Ahmad Zaki Sdn Bhd.

Work has commenced on the V4 package from section 17 PJ to Jalan Semantan, being undertaken by Sunway Construction Sdn Bhd. Work on the V7 package from Bandar Tun Hussein Onn to Taman Mesra in Cheras will commence from August 7.

V7, which is a bumiputra-exclusive work package, is being carried out by MTD Construction Sdn Bhd. Exclusive Bumiputra packages make up 43% of the MRT project's total value.

The public can now brace themselves for four years of MRT-related construction work. This will comprise site clearance, relocation of utilities, bored piling, construction of piers (columns holding up viaduct), construction of viaduct guideway (elevated structure in which MRT tracks are located), and building of elevated stations.

Spokespeople for both V4 and



Visualisation of piers for guideway along Jalan Semantan.

V7 say that no lanes will be closed during this period unless absolutely necessary, in which case, this would be limited to between 12am and 5am. Residents are warned that they may be inconvenienced by temporary road diversions and road narrowing as well as heavy equipment traffic.

Local residents may also be affected by temporary shut down of public service utilities for jointing and relocation purposes.

According to a spokesperson for the V4 package, noise levels are to be kept within Department of Environment guidelines, ie 65 dBA during the day and 60 dBA at night (the typical decibel level for a vacuum cleaner is 70 dBA, while a conversation-filled restaurant is estimated at 60 dBA).

“Three stations will sit along the V4 segment, namely Section

16, Pusat Bandar Damansara and Semantan, with a provisional station at Bukit Kiara.

The station for Section 16 (outside Eastin Hotel) will be an island station (with platform in between tracks), while the Semantan station will be a side platform station (tracks in between platforms). The Pusat Bandar Damansara station will be an interchange station.

For the Section 16 station, the BHP and Shell petrol stations and Sri Changgong showroom there will be demolished. For the Semantan station, the Shell and Esso petrol stations will be demolished.

The remaining packages, V2 (Kota Damansara-Dataran Sunway), V3 (Dataran Sunway to Section 16) and V8 (Taman Mesra to Kajang) are expected to be awarded in Q2 and Q3 this year.