

SPAD officials ensure MRT project keeps to schedule

THE Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) has emplaced its officials in two MyRapid Transit (MRT) implementation committees to ensure that the mega project keeps to schedule, SPAD chairman Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar said yesterday.

The officers will carry out constant monitoring to ensure smooth implementation of the project, he told reporters after

opening the Land Public Transport Forum in Kuala Lumpur. "The MRT is an important project for SPAD. It is proceeding according to schedule. SPAD is the authorised supervisor, and we have emplaced our officers in the implementation committees. We undertake monitoring and know of the developments," he said.

Syed Hamid said the project, launched by Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak in July last year, was proceeding according to schedule and can be fully completed in 2016.

Up to March this year, 27 of the 86 MRT work packages had been awarded to qualified contractors, covering preliminary works such as relocation of utilities and preparation of land.

The project, stretching 51km from Sungai Buloh to

Kajang and winding through Bandar Utama, Damansara, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur and Cheras, is the biggest infrastructure project in the country and the biggest under the National Key Economic Area.

Upon completion in 2016, the MRT will be used by more than 10 million passengers in the Klang Valley, and at least 50% of the residents in the Klang

Valley are expected to use public transportation.

The two-day forum is aimed at discussing the plan and direction of public transportation, and is attended by stakeholders from the government and private sectors and academia as well as diplomats from Singapore, Japan, the UK, France and Zambia. It is organised jointly with UK Trade and Investment. — *Bernama*