



*MRT CEO Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid said all the **packages were open for competitive bidding***

## MRT Corp denies sidelining Bumi firms in award of contracts

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Mass Rapid Transit Corporation (MRT Corp) has denied accusations that it had sidelined members of the Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia (DPMM) in awarding of contracts to Bumiputera contractors.

Chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid said some packages of the project were exclusive to Bumiputera companies and some Bumiputera companies had also won in the open category.

“Furthermore, all these packages were open for competitive bidding so the issue of sidelining cannot arise at all,” he said in a statement released here yesterday, adding that the role of Bumiputera contractors in the delivery of the Sg Buloh-Kajang Line is very important.

He pointed out that as at end of July, more than 17 packages worth RM7.6 billion were offered to Bumiputera companies.

These include 10 packages for pre-construction (advance works), three for elevated guideway packages and one elevated station package, two depot packages, one multi-storey car park package and half of an underground work package, Azhar said.

“This totals 47 per cent of the packages awarded so far, which is higher than the target of 43 per cent. In addition, there will be a further 17 packages that will be allocated to Bumiputera companies valued at RM1.7 billion. This will raise the total value of Bumiputera-awarded projects to RM9.3 billion,” said Azhar.

He said MRT Corp was surprised by the statement from DPMM president Syed Ali Alattas as the matter falls under the purview of the Prime Minister’s department and it has been thoroughly followed through.

In the statement, MRT Corp said it is also awarding more than 200 packages to Class D, E, and F contractors, between now and the delivery date of the project targeted for July 2017.