

# MRT Corp denies Malay chamber's accusations

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

Chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Hamid said the role of bumiputra contractors in the delivery of the Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) Line was very important.

"It is absolutely untrue that MRT Corp has sidelined bumiputra contractors as some packages were exclusive to bumiputra companies and some bumiputra companies also won in the open category.

"Furthermore, all the packages were open for competitive bidding, so the issue of sidelining cannot arise at all," said Azhar in a statement.

Over 17 packages worth RM7.6bil had been awarded to bumiputra companies up to end-July, he said.

He said these included 10 packages for pre-construction (advance works), three for elevated guideway packages and one elevated station package.

"This totals 47% of the packages awarded so far, which are higher than the 43% target.

"In addition, there will be a further 17 packages valued at RM1.7bil that will be allocated to bumiputra companies. This will raise the total value of bumiputra-awarded projects to RM9.3bil," he said.

MRT Corp will also award more than 200 packages to Class D, E and F contractors between now and the delivery date of the project, targeted for July 2017. — Bernama