

# Bumiputra agenda on track

Value of MRT contracts farmed out to Malay contractors to hit RM9.1bil

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Participation by bumiputra contractors in the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) line is expected to reach RM9.1bil in terms of the value of work packages when all the contracts of the country's largest infrastructure project are awarded by year-end.

As of now, bumiputra participation in the SBK line is at 45%, exceeded the initial target of 43% of the total value of work packages.

"We are pleased that the bumiputra agenda has been effectively implemented. To date, the contracts to the value of RM8.82bil have been awarded to bumiputra contractors.

"This amounts to 45% of the total value of contracts awarded thus far," Mass Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) director of stakeholders and land relations Haris Fadzilah Hassan told reporters after a media briefing on the bumiputra agenda of the SBK line yesterday.

To date 53 of the 85 of the MRT work packages have been awarded, with a total value of RM19.8bil. The balance of the 32 packages is expected to be awarded by year-end.

Haris added that bumiputra contractors who were currently involved and performed well in the SBK line would also have better consideration to participate in lines two and three of the mass rapid transit development.

"The SBK line could be a platform for these bumiputra contractors to have related experience in the rail development which could be a stepping stone for them to bid for jobs



Haris, seen here with a map of the MRT project, says contracts worth RM8.82bil have been awarded to bumiputra contractors.

not only in the future MRT lines but also other rail developments in the country."

According to MRT Corp, all bumiputra work packages are subjected to competitive bidding. All bidders are given the same project information and evaluated on the same basis. To win the awards, the companies have to satisfy stringent evaluation criteria. This is to ensure companies with extensive experience and technical know-how were picked.

Haris said the MRT project had a

very stringent one-stop procurement process. "All tenders go through a thorough evaluation process. Tender evaluations go through several stages starting with the Tender Evaluation Committee followed by the Working Committee and the One-Stop Technical Committee (OSTC).

"The final approval is given by the One-Stop Procurement Committee (OSPC)," he said. In terms of the evaluation process, Haris said the committees would look at various factors including technical capabili-

ties, track record and financial strength. "Key to this is to find a fit that will ensure the project gets the best technical input from a capable contractor, while maintaining costs," added Haris.

Haris said the OSPC was chaired by the secretary-general to the treasury if the contract value was less than RM50mil, by the Minister of Finance II for contracts valued between RM50mil and RM300mil and the Minister of Finance, who is also the Prime Minister, if the contract value is above RM300mil.