

Two more lines for Klang Valley MRT

KUALA LUMPUR: At least two more lines are being planned to complement the Sungai Buloh-Kajang mass rapid transit (MRT) system in the Klang Valley.

Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Abd Rahim Bakri said the government is currently identifying the possible routes for the two lines.

"This (Sungai Buloh-Kajang MRT) is only the beginning as two more lines are being identified and planned for future development," he said in his keynote address presented during the Malaysian Railways and MRT conference 2012, organised by the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli) here yesterday.

Noting that one of the key objectives of the National Key Result Areas-UTP (NKRA-UPT) of the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) is to increase the existing urban rail capacity, he said there is an urgent need to expand the coverage of population living within an accessible distance of an efficient rail system in the Klang Valley in light of its growing population.

"Kuala Lumpur is growing too fast. Greater KL will have at least six million population. Thus it requires an



Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Abd Rahim Bakri (second from left) receiving a token from the director of Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli) Puan Sri Susan Cheah at the opening ceremony of the Malaysian Railways and MRT conference 2012 yesterday. Present are Asli director Tan Sri Dr Ramon V. Navaratnam (left) and Asli CEO Datuk Dr Michael Yeoh. Pic by Salhani Ibrahim

efficient public transport system, otherwise you will have congestion problems," he said.

In this regard, Abd Rahim said the aspiration to achieve a 50 per cent modal share of public transport by 2020 has to be supported by an in-

crease in coverage and capacity of urban rail transport.

"The extension of light rail transit lines and the MRT are some of the projects identified to provide for this aspiration.

"The initial MRT line, which is

currently being constructed, will span 57km with 35 stations connecting several townships beginning with Sungai Buloh and terminating at Kajang.

"It is estimated to carry up to 400,000 riders daily," he said.