



MEDIA RELEASE

PRIME MINISTER MAKES SURPRISE VISIT TO COCHRANE MRT STATION SITE

Kuala Lumpur, 4 January 2013: The Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak today paid an unscheduled visit to the Cochrane MRT underground station construction site.

The Prime Minister arrived at the site at 4:15pm and was showed the site which is currently being excavated. He was briefed on site by Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) Chief Executive Officer Dato' Azhar Abdul Hamid and Director for Underground - Tunnel Mr Blaise Mark Pearce on the significance of the site, the various activities being carried out there, and also on the overall status of the Sg Buloh – Kajang (SBK) line.

Also present during the visit was MRT Corp Chairman Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan.

The Cochrane MRT station construction site will also be the location where four tunnel boring machines (TBM) will be launched. Two TBMs will excavate northwards towards Pasar Rakyat station, located within the Tun Razak Exchange development, while the other two will excavate southwards towards the Maluri Portal where the SBK line will surface and continue towards Kajang on an elevated viaduct.

The first TBM is expected to arrive from Germany at the end of January 2013 while the remaining units will arrive after that. The first TBM, which will excavate northwards towards Pasar Rakyat, is expected to be launched in May 2013.

The project will use a total of 10 TBMs, including the world's first Variable Density TBM which was specially designed for tunneling through the Kuala Lumpur Limestone Formation.

Dato' Azhar thanked the Prime Minister for visiting the site and checking on the progress of the project.

"I am happy to report to YAB Dato' Sri Najib that the project is progressing very well and we are on target to begin operations for the first phase from Sungai Buloh station to Semantan station by the end of 2016 and for the rest of the line by the end of July 2017," he said.



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With almost all work packages for the project awarded, construction of the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line is in full swing across the 51km alignment.

The MRT project is an Entry Point Project of the Government's Economic Transformation Plan (ETP) under the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley National Key Economic Area. The target of the MRT project is for 50% of journeys in the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley region to be made on public transport. This level of mobility will support the goal of the GKL/KV NKEA which is for Kuala Lumpur to become a top-20 most livable metropolis globally and top-20 in terms of economic growth.

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About the MRT Project

MRT is a new rail transport system for the Klang Valley. It is part of the government's Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley's National Key Economic Area (NKEA), under the Economic Transformation Programme. The Sungai Buloh – Kajang (SBK) Line runs for 51kms, from the north-west town of Sungai Buloh to the south-east city town of Kajang. Upon completion, it will comprise 31 stations, and serve 1.2 million people along the route. It will also have strategic integration with KL's existing rail transport network, namely the LRT, Monorail and KTM Komuter, as well as intra and inter-city bus routes. The end result will be better connectivity for KL and its surrounding cities, while reducing the number of cars that enter the capital.

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