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Working into the night

MRT construction activities to go beyond 10pm to minimise inconvenience

MORE work will be done at night in the construction of the 51km My Rapid Transit (MRT) Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line.

MRT Corp Sdn Bhd strategic communications and public relations director Amir Mahmood Razak said this was due to the nature of the construction activities and the location.

"The MRT alignment runs through densely built-up and populated areas as well as along many busy roads and highways.

"We have no choice but to carry out some of our construction activities at night to minimise inconvenience to road users," he said during a press conference at MRT Corp's information centre in TTDI Plaza on Monday evening.

Amir said the Malaysian Highway Authority, local councils and highway concessionaires had strict rules regarding construction activities along busy roads and highways during the day, often allowing such work to take place only at night.

The work at night includes utility piloting, detection and relocation, land clearing, tree-cutting, road-widening, bore-piling, sheet-piling, beam casting and segmented box girder (SBG) launching for the construction of the MRT elevated guideway.

Some work is carried out round the clock, including weekends and public holidays, such as tunnel excavation, which is done underground.

However, Amir said, many activities that supported tunnel excavation, such as muck removal, bentonite supply, line segment delivery and flood-lighting at the tunnel opening, might have some impact on people living nearby.

"MRT Corp imposes strict measures on its contractors to ensure that noise from these works is within levels allowed by the law.

"The work that can be carried out at night is classified based on the intensity, and restrictions are imposed accordingly," he said.

He assured that intense construction work that generated noise, such as bore piling and sheet piling, was carried out only until 10pm if done at night. Less intense work, such as utility piloting and SBG launching, is allowed beyond 10pm.

He added that several lanes were closed at night to facilitate the movement of heavy machinery.

He said if the activities generated noise higher than the level permitted by the Environment Department, mitigation measures such as using portable sound curtains over generators were taken.

Amir announced thay the Petaling Jaya-bound slip road at the Jalan Maarof/Sprint Highway junction, which was reopened to the public on July 31, would be closed nightly until Aug 31.

"The road will be closed from 10pm to 6am the next day. On Fridays and Saturdays, it will be closed an hour later at 11pm.

"We are taking the opportunity created by the reduced traffic during Hari Raya to speed up construction and minimise disruptions. We will put up more signs along Jalan Maarof to inform the public on the night closures," he said.

MRT Corp has also implemented a traffic management plan that requires sufficient directional signs, deployment of impact protection vehicles and setting up of flood lights, blinkers and flagmen where necessary.

Amir urged the public who might be impacted by the work at night to be patient.

"Rest assured MRT Corp will finish the work at a particular location as quickly as possible," he said, adding that the public could contact the 24-hour MRT Hotline at 1800-82-6868 for more information.

Construction of the Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line, which started in July 2011, is 22% complete as at June this year. The first phase of the project is set to be completed in December 2016 and the entire project is scheduled to be completed by July 2017.

Keeping public informed: Amir Mahmood (right) speaking at Monday's press conference on night construction works along the MRT Sg Buloh-Kajang Line while MMC-Gamuda deputy construction director Adil Putra Ahmad looks on.