

# Much to cheer about

## MRT Corp has 'double celebration' at Raya do

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Photos by FAIHAN GHANI

**G**UESTS attending the Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd's (MRT Corp) Hari Raya open house were among the first to find out that the project was nearing its quarter mark.

MRT Corp CEO Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid revealed that 23.78% of the first of three MRT lines had been completed by the end of July.

He said work on the project was going smoothly and according to the timeline, with 30% scheduled to be completed by December.

The opening of phase one from Sungai Buloh to Semantan is fixed for 2016, while the Sungai Buloh to

Kajang line is expected to be fully operational by July 2017.

Currently, four tunnel-boring machines are excavating at full speed – two from Semantan North Portal to KL Sentral, and two from Cochrane Station to Pasar Rakyat.

Azhar, however, was not able to reveal details on the second and third lines.

MRT Corp project director Marcus Karakashian also spoke of possible difficulties that they would face.

"One of the biggest issues in the future is going to be the integration between the systems and the civil works," he said.

He added that MRT Corp was optimistic it would be able to deliver the results according to scheduled timelines, conscientiously, efficiently and safely.

The corporation also took the opportunity to spread some goodwill during the P. Ramlee-themed Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration at Kelab Golf Negara Subang.

A total of 30 children were invited to the celebration from Rumah Bakti Nur Syaheera, an orphanage that also shelters underprivileged families.

MRT Corp also donated RM5,000 to the home and Azhar gave *duit raya* to the children.



**Charming:** (From left) Nabilah Azhar, Ahloha Idris, Dr Zafarina Mohamad Yassin, Datuk Azmi Mat Nor, Amir Mahmood Razak and Azhar.



**Cheerful:** (Left) MRT Corp CEO Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid (in baju Melayu) welcoming guests to the company's Hari Raya open house (above). MRT Corp project director Marcus Karakashian is in green shirt.