

MRT to groom future contractors

By **G.SURACH**
surach@mmail.com.my

MASS Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) aims to develop a pool of bumiputra entrepreneurs to venture into the nation's construction industry.

This follows the launch of the Young Graduates Entrepreneurship Programme yesterday by MRT Corp as part of its bumiputra agenda for the Klang Valley MRT project.

The programme is developed in collaboration with Perbadanan Ushawan Nasional Bhd (PUNB) and MMC Gamuda KVMRT (PDP) Sdn Bhd.

MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid

said: "I hope the programme will nurture a group of young bumiputra entrepreneurs who will have the capability, skills and confidence to be players in the construction sector, whether inside or outside Malaysia."

"The programme will provide young graduates with the knowledge and know-how which they will use when they become contractors or subcontractors."

The participants comprised young graduates from 20 companies which were formed as part of the programme.

Azhar said that the candidates were vetted following a one-year training stint with PUNB.

When asked whether the trainees who had completed the pro-

gramme may be awarded future contracts with MRT Line 2 and Line 3, Azhar said that it was possible if they were ready and qualified.

"PUNB will be assisting the participants with financial grants up to RM100 million overall if necessary, for them to set up and manage their respective companies.

"They will be assessed and successful ones will be awarded contracts for work packages under the MRT project."

He said under MRT's bumiputra agenda, 45% of contracts for the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line 1 had been awarded to bumiputra companies surpassing the 43% target.



UPBEAT: MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid (second from right) talking to the participants of the programme, with PUNB chief executive officer Dzul kifli Fadzilah (right).