

450 police to safeguard new MRT line

KUALA LUMPUR: Some 450 auxiliary police personnel will be deployed to oversee the overall safety of the Sungai Buloh-Kajang Mass Rapid Transit line in the future.

For a start, MRT Corp strategic communications and public relations director Amir Mahmood Razak said 71 auxiliary policemen, including an ASP-ranking officer and 70 sergeants, would be stationed at the four central labour quarters and main construction sites in Sungai Buloh and Kajang.

"Later when the project is completed, we are planning to have an ASP as the officer-in-charge of two MRT stations," he said yesterday.

Phase one, which involves the completion of the project between Sungai Buloh and Semantan, is expected to be ready by 2016, while the second phase, involving the whole 51km

alignment, is expected to be complete in July 2017. The line will have 31 stations, including seven underground.

Earlier, police crime prevention department director Datuk Ayub Yaakob handed over the certificate of appointment for the MRT auxiliary police unit at a ceremony.

MRT Corp stakeholders/land director Haris Fadzilah Hassan said the appointment was part of MRT's effort to enhance security and the safety of the premises.

"Apart from efficient service, there are other factors that commuters look for when using public transport. These include safety in trains, stations and park-n-ride facilities," said Haris.

Ayub said the function of the unit was not merely to guard the MRT con-

struction sites and, later, the stations, but also to help in planning safety and security designs.

"These include getting them to monitor the closed-circuit televisions (CCTV) and other safety components, including the alarm system and safety (assembly) points during an emergency. Their presence is also crucial in curbing crimes such as theft and vandalism.

"Their duty goes beyond guarding the sites and MRT stations as they are expected to engage with the existing security team as well as the thousands of foreign workers. They can also play their role by gathering intelligence within the project."

Haris said the MRT project was 25 percent complete and was expected to meet the completion deadline. **By Nuradzimmah Daim**



Datuk Ayub Yaakob (centre) handing the *certificate of appointment for the MRT auxiliary police unit* to MRT quality assurance and quality control director **Syed Mahdhar Syed Hussain**. Looking on is **Haris Fadzilah**. Pic by Mim Fadlizal Rozaiman