

# More jobs from MRT

## Agreements with conglomerates will benefit local firms

LOCAL companies can look forward to getting more subcontracts from foreign conglomerates involved in the Klang Valley Mass Rapid Transit (KVMRT) after the offset programme was signed off yesterday between Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) and the first line's six main contractors.

MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Azhar Abdul Hamid said: "The signing of the programme is expected to contribute about RM3.53 billion to the nation's economy and boost more than 50 local companies in terms of human capital development."

The six MRT contractors are Meidensha-Meiden Malaysia Sdn Bhd joint-venture (JV), Bombardier (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, Siemens Malaysia Sdn Bhd-Siemens AG-SMH Rail Sdn Bhd JV, MMC Gamuda KVMRT

(T) Sdn Bhd, Affiliated Computer Service Solutions France SAS and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.

He reiterated that MRT Corp has made secured several foreign contractors for the MRT Project and invested heavily for the provision of expertise and machinery not available in the country.

"This includes the purchase of trains, costing us RM1.37 billion and also tunnel boring machines used for underground construction, each costing between RM30 million and RM45 million.

"These purchases are a huge undertaking for MRT Corp and it is only logical the contractors give back, for the benefit of the Malaysian economy."

The offset programme is a unique endeavour designed to boost local industrial and tech-

nological development. The programme would also provide jobs to local companies with the right skills and expertise.

Apart from providing the necessary services or machinery for the MRT project, the programme will address seven areas of interest -- design and development, human capital development, global market access, local works packages, investment, parts and component manufacturing and transfer of technology.

Azhar said the KVMRT Offset Programme will generate 32 projects. "Several projects have already commenced with 30 MRT Corp staff recruited for structured training programme with Siemens in various disciplines of rail systems and technology for between 36 and 60 months in Malaysia, Austria and Germany."



UPBEAT: Azhar (front row right) shares a light moment with representatives of the MRT contractors during yesterday's event