

MEDIA: NST online

DATE: 3 May 2014

LINK:

<http://www.nst.com.my/nation/general/better-living-quarters-for-mrt-workers-1.586445>

Better living quarters for MRT workers

NO MORE 'KONGSI': 13,000 being housed in four Centralised Labour Quarters

BULOH: The days of construction workers squeezed into kongsi shacks are gone, at least as far as the Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) and MMC Gamuda KVMRT (MMC- Gamuda) are concerned.

They have come up with four Centralised Labour Quarters (CLQs) to house all 13,000 workers who work on the Sungai Buloh-Kajang Mass Rapid Transit project in Sungai Buloh, Cheras, Kajang and Jalan Cochrane.

MRT Corp strategic communications and public relations director Amir Mahmood Razak said the CLQs provided their foreign workers a safe, secure and pleasant environment to live in. The initiative cost RM100 million, with each CLQ costing about RM25 million.

The Sungai Buloh CLQ is built on 1.82ha of land and the biggest. It has the capacity to house up to 4,000 workers.

There are many key features and facilities in the CLQ to take care of the workers' welfare, health, recreational and spiritual needs.

"The introduction of the CLQ concept in Malaysia for a mega infrastructure project has set a new standard in terms of housing for workers in the construction industry."

So much so that the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) had been moved to come up with a new Malaysian standard in workers' accommodation in construction projects, and both MMC-Gamuda and MRT Corp had been roped in to help in the drafting of that standard, revealed Adil Putra Ahmad, who is deputy construction director of the project management department in MMC Gamuda.

In conjunction with the recent Workers' Day celebration, MRT Corp and MMC-Gamuda invited members of the press to a tour of the Sungai Buloh CLQ for Package V4, which was designed to accommodate the construction workers under the management of Sunway Construction, including its sub-contractors.

Serene, quiet, spacious and clean, the V4 can house up to 850 workers. Like other CLQs under the initiative, the V4 is equipped with numerous facilities.

Besides furnished accommodation, there are also toilets, laundry facilities, medical and first-aid facilities, including an air-conditioned first aid room, a television room, a mini-market, a cafeteria, several mini-kitchens for those who want to cook their own meals, and a surau.

Other than free transportation to and from their work site, residents of the CLQs also get scheduled garbage collection and a security system equipped with face-recognition software and closed-circuit television cameras at designated areas.

"We are proud to be part of this initiative and it is our role as the PDP (project delivery partner) for the MRT project, to ensure that workers are taken care of," said Adil Putra.



There is a well-stocked mini-market at the Sungai Buloh Centralised Labour Quarters.

Pix by Halimaton Saadiah Sulaiman



MMC Gamuda project management department deputy construction director Adil Putra Ahmad (right) taking members of the press on a tour of the Sungai Buloh CLQ recently. With them is MRT Corp strategic communications and public relations director Amir Mahmood Razak (centre).