

MEDIA RELEASE

NO INTEGRATION WITH LRT3 DISCUSSED YET

Kuala Lumpur, 22 July 2014: Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) has yet to open any discussions with Syarikat Prasarana Negara Berhad (Prasarana) on any integration between its Sungai Buloh – Kajang (SBK) Line and the proposed third Light Rapid Transit (LRT3) line.

“Although reports have emerged over the last two months of a proposed LRT3 line from Bandar Utama to Klang, MRT Corp has received formal notification from Suruhanjaya Pengangkutan Awam Darat (SPAD) that the proposed line was “still being studied”. This was in reply to our letter dated 13 June 2014 enquiring on reports that LRT3 will integrate with our own One Utama Station in Bandar Utama,” said MRT Corp CEO, Datuk Wira Azhar Abdul Hamid.

“The letter stated that socio-economic impact studies, environmental impact assessment, technical as well as operational issues of the LRT3 line have not been completed. The letter however did not state the targeted date of approval of the project,” added Azhar.

Earlier reports in the media had indicated that LRT3 will integrate with SBK Line’s One Utama Station, boosting rail connectivity for Klang and Petaling Jaya residents. Media reports had also raised concern that such integration would need to be sorted quickly to ensure that any integration would be cost efficient to MRT Corp. It could also avoid poor integration such as the existing link between the Ampang Line and the Kelana Jaya Line at Masjid Jamek Station.

“The reports are right, as any integration must be planned ahead. Ideally, for the commuters benefit, it should be a seamless, paid link, and one that requires minimal linkways, given that the LRT3 and our SBK Lines are new or lines under construction.”

“For us to integrate efficiently, we would have to make changes to our station design and access points. It will of course incur abortive and additional design costs. There will be a point when this seamless integration becomes impossible as the SBK Line proceeds with construction,” explained Azhar.

Still, he welcomed the government’s push for more rail links in the Klang Valley.



"It is a positive move for sure. The KVMRT project is aimed at reducing traffic congestion in the Klang Valley. The LRT3 Line, if realised, will provide an option for residents of the Klang – Petaling Jaya corridor to commute between the two cities and beyond without adding to traffic congestion," Azhar said.

The SBK Line runs for 51 kilometers along a corridor catchment of 1.2 million people. Phase One between Sungai Buloh and Damansara Heights is expected to be operational by December 2016, while the entire line ending in Kajang will be operational by July 2017. The project is currently at 45.6% completion, slightly ahead of schedule.

ENDS

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