

'MRT Line 2 will have multiple spillover effects'

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION: Project a good development for the people, says Shahril

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MASS Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) says the decision to expand the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) line from Sungai Buloh to Putrajaya is expected to contribute positively to the economy.

Chief executive officer Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar said the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (MRT Line 2) will bring new multiplier effect to the country's overall economy.

"We are working hard to complete the MRT project. The MRT is a good development for the people. It is not a wasteful project as it is driving the economy with multiple spillover effects," he told Business Times.

Shahril was commenting on the government's decision to continue with the MRT Line 2 project in the pre-emptive measures announced yesterday.

‡ MRT Corp is currently construct-



MRT Corp CEO Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar says he hopes construction for the MRT Line 2 will commence by year-end

ing the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line costing RM23 billion. Last year, the government ap-

proved the construction of the MRT Line 2 under the 2015 Budget.

Shahril hopes to call for MRT Line 2 tenders by September.

"We have started the process for the MRT Line 2. We have engaged all the relevant authorities, including the state government, ministries and agencies. We are now at the tail end of finalising the final alignment for the MRT Line 2.

"Alignment is not cast in stone and we are still working on it. As far as the alignment is concerned, there may be some stretches that we may tweak to ensure the project's success. When we have decided on the final alignment, we will go back to SPAD for approval and carry out the public display, which we expect to hold in April," he said.

Shahril hopes that construction for the MRT Line 2 will commence by year-end.

"The line will remain from Sungai Buloh to Kajang and on to Putrajaya and it would have 40 stations but that (the number of stations) may

change depending on the final structure of the alignment.

"For some areas, it may be too costly for us to have the MRT alignment as we will have to acquire land and that would be an expensive process. We are trying to avoid as much as possible the relocation of utilities that are not identified or listed in drawings but only found during construction.

"These are all checks and balances to help ensure that the MRT Line 2 is given a good head start," he said.

On the cost for the MRT Line 2, Shahril said, it was too early to give estimates.

"As long as the alignment and design is not firmed up, I can't give estimates," he said.

As at yesterday, construction of the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line has reached 58 per cent, which is according to the schedule.

Shahril said MRT Corp is on target to complete Phase 1 from Sungai Buloh to Semantan by December 2016, and Phase 2 from Semantan to Kajang by July 2017.