

MEDIA RELEASE

PRIME MINISTER YAB. DATO' SRI NAJIB TUN RAZAK VISITS KVMRT SBK LINE

Kuala Lumpur, 3 March 2015: Prime Minister Dato Sri Najib Tun Razak visited the Klang Valley Mass Rapid Transit (KVMRT) Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line project, as a mark of commitment towards ensuring that the project was at the desired progress to have the line fully operational in July 2017.

This is Najib's third visit to the KVMRT site. The visit today was at Tun Razak Exchange (TRX) station which falls under the Underground Works Package being undertaken by MMC-Gamuda KVMRT (T) Sdn Bhd as the main contractor.

TRX station is the biggest of the seven underground stations with allowance made for a link to the future Sungai Buloh – Serdang – Putrajaya Line (SSP Line / Line 2).

Also present at the site visit were Deputy Finance Minister YB Datuk Ahmad Maslan, MRT Corporation Sdn Bhd's (MRT Corp) Chairman Tan Sri Dr. Ali Hamsa and MRT Corp Chief Executive Officer Dato' Sri Shahril Mokhtar. The Underground Works contractor team was represented by Gamuda Berhad's Group Managing Director Dato' Lin Yun Ling, MMC Corporation Berhad's Chairman Tan Sri Dato' Wira Syed Abdul Jabbar Syed Hassan and MMC Corporation Berhad's Group Managing Director Dato' Sri Che Khalib Mohamad Noh.

During the visit, the PM viewed the overall construction of the station from the viewing deck and visited the station's lower platform level. He also entered the tunnel where the future MRT tracks will be built.

Later, he was briefed by MRT Corp SBK Line Project Director Marcus Karakashian who explained that the tunnel at this location was built in karstic geological formation. A special machine called the Variable Density Tunnel Boring Machine (VD TBM) was used to counter possible problematic repercussions such as sinkholes and ground subsidence.



The VD machine, the first of its kind in the world was jointly developed by MMC Gamuda and Herrenknecht AG and it has become a worldwide sensation with MMC-Gamuda having won the prestigious International Tunnelling and Underground Space Awards last year under the Technical Innovation of the Year Category.

The first VD TBM was launched in Cochrane by Najib on 31 May, 2012 and tunneling in the entire karst section was completed in October with no impact to buildings and structures above the ground.

By early April this year, the tunnels will be fully completed, after which the mechanical and electrical works will commence followed by track laying works and systems. Also, Shahril said he considered the interest shown by Najib on the KVMRT project as an honour.

"This is a motivating factor for the various teams to pool their resources towards completing the line on time and within cost," he said.

As of January 2015, the overall completion of the Underground works is at 75% with tunnelling works at 95%. The tunnelling works for the entire SBK Line is expected to be completed by the first week of April 2015.

The station works are also progressing well at all seven MRT underground stations with 63% completion at Maluri station followed by 62% at Muzium Negara station, Pasar Seni station (61%), Merdeka station (56%), Tun Razak Exchange station (58%) and Bukit Bintang (48%).

"With the achievements to date and heavy investment in manpower and machinery for tunneling works, we are confident that we will be in time for the opening of the second phase of SBK Line in July 2017 and we are now able to assemble a full team of experts for tunneling jobs locally," said MGKT Project Director Satpal S. Bhogal.

"Our dependence on foreign experts and skilled workers will be reduced significantly and there will be a time in the near future that we will be fully self-sufficient to undertake tunneling jobs, in line with our Vision of reaching a high-income nation status," he added.

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About the MRT Project

The MRT is a new urban rail system for the Klang Valley.

The first MRT Line, the 51km Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line will comprise of 31 stations, and serve 1.2 million people along the route.

The MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line, the second MRT line to be built, was approved by the Government in February 2014. The proposed alignment is expected to go for public display in the second quarter of 2015 and the final alignment is targeted for approval in August 2015.

The Klang Valley MRT will integrate with the Klang Valley's existing rail transport network, namely the LRT, Monorail and KTM Komuter, as well as intra and inter-city bus routes. The end result will be better connectivity for Kuala Lumpur and its surrounding cities, while reducing the number of cars that enter the capital.

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