

PRIME NEWS

# Work on MRT line 2 to start next year

**COST-SAVING:** 77pc of proposed alignment will be on govt land

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**W**ORK on the new Mass Rapid Transit Line 2 is expected to begin in the first quarter of next year, connecting Sungai Buloh-Serdang to Putrajaya (SSP Line), with 77 per cent of the proposed alignment to be on government land and the remainder on private land.

The move to cut cost while having one of the best alignments with good accessibility, ridership, potential redevelopment and complimenting existing railway interchanges will see land acquisition of 600ha.

The proposed 52.2km track with 36 stations is expected to be completed in 2022. It will have a direct route for commuters from Sungai

Buloh, Kepong, Jinjang, Jalan Ipoh, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Serdang, Sungai Besi and Bandar Malaysia to Cyberjaya and Putrajaya with an estimated end-to-end travel time from 100 minutes to 84 minutes. It will also have a 13-storey Park-and-ride building.

MRT Corp Strategic Communications and Public Relations director Mahmood Abdul Razak said the proposed alignment would only be finalised after receiving feedback from the public.

He said the Land Public Transport Commission had proposed a terminal to be adjacent to the KTM, ERL and proposed High Speed Rail at Bandar Malaysia, a new development, which will also have the Tun Razak Exchange.

"It is a new development. We have chosen this place not because it is under 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), but it will increase our expected ridership to 13,000 commuters daily.

"It will also connect to the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High Speed Rail.

"Whether it is a 1MDB or a private project, we will look at feasibility

and ridership," he said when asked if the alignment was to facilitate the new development under 1MDB.

He was speaking during a press conference to announce the Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (DEIA) for the SSP Line, which will see people giving feedback on social, economic and environment impact once the line was up and running.

The proposed alignment will have 36 stations (25 elevated and 11 underground stations in the city centre) and will be integrated with other train lines. It will serve a catchment of 1.2 million people and the estimated ridership is 400,000 passengers a day.

MRT Corp began public dialogues since February, explaining the social and economic impacts of the line.

On-going discussions on noise and vibration, traffic, public safety and construction risks, and water pollution with the public are also underway.

Mahmood said there had been some objections from residents and businesses from Jalan Kepong and Jalan Ipoh, who fear the traffic congestion might affect their business.

## SSP Line Proposed Route

INFOGRAPHIC: NST

