

WORLD MARKETS

📉 -2.02 (1,705.09)	KLCI (OCT 22)
📈 +12.41 (3,038.11)	STI (OCT 22)
📉 -48.50 (17,168.61)	DJIA (OCT 21)
📈 +3.29 (6,348.42)	FTSE (OCT 21)
EXCHANGE RATE	
US\$1 = RM4.2800	

B2



CHALLENGING BUDGET FOR POLICYMAKERS, SAYS MIER

B3



'ASEAN NEEDS OWN BANKING INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM'

B6



INFLATION MAY HAVE EASED IN SEPTEMBER



Resilient performance

PUBLIC Bank has posted a RM1.2 billion third-quarter net profit, an increase from the same period last year, mainly contributed by sustained growth in its loans and deposit, as well as non-interest income.

REPORT ON B2



Final green light for MRT Line 2

REPORT ON B2



MRT Corp gets final nod to start Line 2 construction

KUALA LUMPUR: Mass Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) has received the final approval for the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line, or MRT Line 2.

The approval, which involves the final alignment and station locations, among others, was given by the Land Public Transport Commission.

MRT Corp said in a statement yesterday it would now proceed with the construction.

"The MRT Line 2 will significantly increase urban rail coverage in the Klang Valley and will serve a population of two million by providing a modern, efficient, reliable and safe public transport service.

"The final approval comes after the completion of a three-month public inspection between May 15 and August 17, where booths were set up at 26 locations along the proposed alignment."

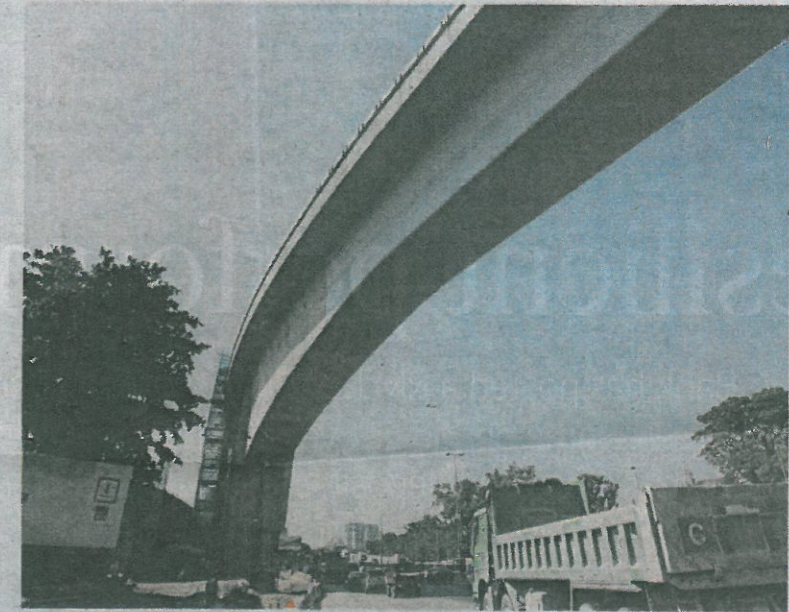
The approval was given pursuant to Section 84 of the Land Public Transport Act 2010.

"As required by the Act, all feedback and objections to the proposed alignment received during the public inspection were forwarded to the government.

"An estimated 40,000 people visited the public inspection booths. Feedback was received from more than 10,500 people, of which 90 per cent expressed support for the construction of the line.

"After an analysis of the feedback, the final approval was given without any major modification to the earlier proposed alignment that was displayed during the public inspection," it said.

The final alignment saw some minor tweaking at two locations at Kuchai Lama and Sungai Besi to minimise the impact from land acquisition and to enable optimisation of the remaining land after acqui-



The MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line will commence operations by the end of next year, while the approval of the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line will significantly increase urban rail coverage in the Klang Valley.

sition. The government also decided that an additional elevated station will be constructed near Technology Park Malaysia (TPM), between stations S25 at Sungai Besi and S26 at Serdang Raya North.

Besides serving TPM, this station's catchment area will also include future development projects in the Sungai Besi area, which will result in an increase in ridership.

MRT Line 2 will now have 37 stations, of which 25 will be elevated, 11 underground and one "half-sunken", where it will be built on the ground below the current level.

"People living along the alignment will get direct and efficient access to the Golden Triangle of Kuala Lumpur. The line will also integrate with the future Kuala Lumpur-Singapore high-speed rail system.

"The overall length of the final

alignment remains unchanged at 52.2km, of which 38.7km will be elevated and 13.5km underground. The underground section of the alignment will be between Jalan Ipoh and Kuchai Lama."

Phase 1 between Sungai Buloh and Kampung Batu is expected to be operational by July 2021, while the remaining section between Kampung Batu and Putrajaya Sentral will be operational under Phase 2 by July 2022.

The MRT Line 2 is expected to have a ridership of more than 500,000 passengers daily when it is fully operational in July 2022.

Meanwhile, the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line under Phase 1 will commence operations by the end of next year, while the remainder of the line will begin operations by July 31 2017. **Zarina Zakariah**