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# PM: MRT on track

## JOBS CREATED: 2016 operational target can be achieved

### KUALA LUMPUR

**D**ATUK Seri Najib Razak is satisfied with the progress of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) project and trusts that the first line can begin operating as scheduled at the end of next year.

The prime minister said MRT has 19 trains and would receive 35 more by June.

"What we have planned all this while is materialising, which means our target for the first MRT line to begin operating at the end of next year can be achieved," he said during a visit to the MRT depot in Sungai Buloh yesterday.

Najib said the project had created jobs for the local community and "an element of technology transfer" among participating companies.

"We see a lot of employment opportunities for our people who have

the qualification. Being involved in the development of the MRT should be a valuable experience for them."

Najib arrived at 5.25pm at the depot in Sungai Buloh, built by Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) in 2011.

It was his first visit to the depot and the fourth to an MRT site in the Klang Valley. He had visited the Cochrane Launch Shaft and the Tun Razak Exchange station.

During his visit, he was taken to the train stock maintenance workshop and was shown MRT coaches that were assembled and being tested. Najib was briefed by MRT Corp project director for the Sungai Buloh-Kajang route, Marcus Karakashian.

Present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa who is also MRT Corp chairman, Land Public Transport Commission



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** receiving a briefing from MRT Corp chief executive officer **Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar** (second from right) at **Sungai Buloh MRT depot** yesterday. (Inset) **Najib** looking at a station guide in an MRT coach as Chief Secretary to the Government **Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa** (left) and Land Public Transport Commission chairman **Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar** (second from left) look on. **Bernama** pic



chairman Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar, MRT senior officials and representatives of project implementers from MMC-Gamuda KVMRT Sdn Bhd, Siemens and SMH Rail Sdn Bhd.

MRT Corp said the depot would be the biggest in Southeast Asia and

would serve two MRT lines: the Sungai Buloh-Kajang line and the Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Buloh line.

It said as of Sept 30, the progress of the Sungai Buloh-Kajang line was 72.25 per cent complete.

The first part of the route, from Sungai Buloh station to Semantan station, would begin operating in December next year, while the second part, from Semantan to Kajang, would begin in July 2017. **Bernama**

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