

MRT Corp extends CEO Shahril's contract for 2 years

by AZREEN HANI

MASS Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) has extended its CEO Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar's contract for another two years.

MRT Corp said in a statement yesterday that the government has given its nod on the contract extension, which would see Shahril serving as CEO of the company until Dec 31, 2018.

MRT Corp chairman Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa said Shahril's good leadership at MRT Corp has been recognised by the government and he is an asset during such a critical period, especially with the completion of the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line (SBK Line) that is expected to be operational in the near future.

"The government has decided that Shahril's conti-



File by Nuraini Shahrudin

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nued leadership of MRT Corp is needed to see both phases of the SBK Line to be operational between December this year and July next year," said Ali.

Ali, who is also the chief secretary to the government,

added that the construction of the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line (SSP Line) would be picking up speed over the next few years and Shahril's experience would be vital to ensure that any challenges at the initial stages of construction can be overcome.

The groundbreaking for the SSP Line is expected to take place at the end of this month.

Shahril took over the helm of MRT Corp on Jan 1, 2015. He was formerly group MD of Prasarana Malaysia Bhd.

Meanwhile, in a separate statement, MRT Corp said MMC Gamuda KVMRT (T) Sdn Bhd, the underground works contractor for the MRT SSP Line, has completed the Factory Acceptance Test (FAT) for the first tunnel boring machine (TBM) which will later be used for the MRT SSP Line.

The company said the TBM also underwent refurbishment at Waiko Engineering Sdn Bhd's factory.

"This is another first for Malaysia, following closely the first innovative variable density TBM which was used for the first time in the world on the MRT SBK Line," the statement read.

MRT Corp strategic communications and stakeholder relations director Datuk Najmuddin Abdullah said this is a major milestone for the SSP Line.

"Today, the first of 12 TBM which will be used for the SSP Line's 13.5km underground section is ready for action.

"The FAT is one of many steps which our underground works contractor has to undertake in preparation to carry out tunnelling and other underground works for the project,"

he said during a visit to the factory to mark the completion of the FAT yesterday.

The TBM was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak in May 2013 to mark the start of the tunnelling works for the SBK Line.

The machine excavated 4.2km of tunnel — the longest of the eight TBMs used in the SBK Line — before breaking through at the Pasar Seni MRT station site on April 4, 2015.

MRT Corp SSP Line underground works director Blaise Mark Pearce said MRT Corp was satisfied with the FAT and the overall refurbishment of the TBM.

He said by using refurbished TBMs, the company will not only save cost significantly, but will also be using a familiar technology that performs well.