



The **Mass Rapid Transit Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line** will start operating on **Friday**. Pic by Saddam Yusoff

Public eager to use MRT

KUALA LUMPUR: Commuters can't wait to use the new Mass Rapid Transit Sungai Buloh-Kajang (MRT SBK) Line on Friday.

Commuters here agreed that they would benefit from the service.

Nur Haslina Mohd Asri, 22, said as she worked in Bandar Utama, it would be pointless for her to drive as she could disembark in front of her office.

"It will save time as I do not have to face traffic jams. The MRT will be the best way for me to travel to work," she said.

Personal driver Mohd Saman Udzuluddin, 47, said although he would not use the train service to go to work, he would use it on weekends with his family for outings.

This way, he said, he would have more time to spend with his family, instead of getting stuck in traffic jams.

"I hope the second phase will be completed as soon as possible because the traffic jams here are terrible," he said.

The RM23 billion MRT SBK Line, which covers 51km and stops at 31

stations, is part of the Economic Transformation Programme.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak will launch the first phase of the MRT SBK on Thursday at the Kwasa Damansara MRT station.

The first phase of the MRT project covers 12 stations between Sungai Buloh and Semantan while the second phase covers 19 stations between Semantan, and Kajang.

The second phase is scheduled to be ready in July.

On Nov 15, it was announced that the fares for the MRT SBK Line would start from RM1 for a single stop, based on the cashless fare structure, to RM6.40.

Students Nazihah Mohd Din and Nur Effa Shamsi said they were relieved to know the low fares.

"As students, we rely on study loans or scholarships. We need to save whatever little money we have. We rely on public transport as we do not have a car."

Taxi driver Rosli Abdullah, 49, said the RM1 fare would benefit many commuters amid the rising cost of living.

"Even as a taxi driver, I prefer to use the MRT. It will make life easier when I go to Kuala Lumpur where traffic is bad.

"Besides, I can avoid paying parking fees."

On fears that taxi drivers would be hard hit, Rosli rejected the claim as the only service affecting them was ride-sharing services like Uber and Grab.

Fellow cabbie Abdul Aziz Mahmud, 44, said the MRT service would not affect his livelihood and he too would use the service when going to the city centre.

"Our income will not be affected as the MRT stops only at stations, not in front of commuters' homes.

"So, people still need the taxi when they want to go straight home."

On Friday, 12 MRT stations will be open for commuters at Sungai Buloh, Kampung Selamat, Kwasa Damansara, Kwasa Sentral, Kota Damansara, Surian, Mutiara Damansara, Bandar Utama, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Phileo Damansara, Pusat Bandar Damansara and Semantan.