

# Milestone for public transport

**KUALA LUMPUR** — Malaysia has reached a milestone in public transportation today with the launching of the country's first Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) service by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The first phase of the Sg Buloh-Kajang MRT Line, between Sg Buloh and Semantan, will begin its operation tomorrow and will form the backbone of the public transport system in Greater Kuala Lumpur.

This is because areas northwest and southeast of Klang Valley are not served by any urban rail lines yet.

The Kelana Jaya, Sri Petaling and Ampang Light Rail Transit lines and their extensions only serve the northeast and southwest quadrants of the Klang valley.

MRT Strategic Communications and Stakeholder Relations director Datuk Najmuddin Abdullah said the MRT project would become a catalyst in changing the landscape of transportation in Malaysia beginning with Klang Valley.

He said the fares would be an affordable RM1 to RM6.40 and other benefits included potential household savings, increased in business opportunities as well as improved mobility for workers and job seekers.

Phase Two, from Semantan Station to Kajang Station will be operational by July 2017, allowing trains to run the entire alignment.

The RM23 billion MRT SBK line, which covers 51 kilometres with 31 stations, is part of the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) projects initiated by Najib.

Each train set serving the line will have four cars, allowing a total capacity of 1,200 passengers with the frequency of 3.5 minutes between each train and a daily ridership of about 400,000 passengers.

Some 112 feeder buses will operate in all 12 MRT stations, charging RM1 per passenger.

Another 188 feeder buses would operate according to schedule when MRT is fully completed from Semantan to Kajang in July 31, 2017.

For park-and-ride facilities, there will be 14 multi-storey and open-air car parks with 8,000 bays.

Najmuddin said it was estimated about RM4 billion would be generated for Gross National Income direct from construction and operations of MRT (2011-2020).

While at the local level, he said there were economic benefits across a whole spectrum of groups comprising traders, business operators, service providers and property owners. — Bernama