

MRT Corp saved govt RM2 billion

IMPRESSIVE: Its ability to complete mega-project on time has earned kudos from PM

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MRT Corp's ability to complete the Mass Rapid Transit Sungai Buloh-Kajang (MRT SBK) Line on time has enabled the government to save RM2 billion.

Commending MRT Corp as the project owner, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the actual cost of the project now stood at RM21 billion, after all the awarded contracts for the SBK Line were completed.

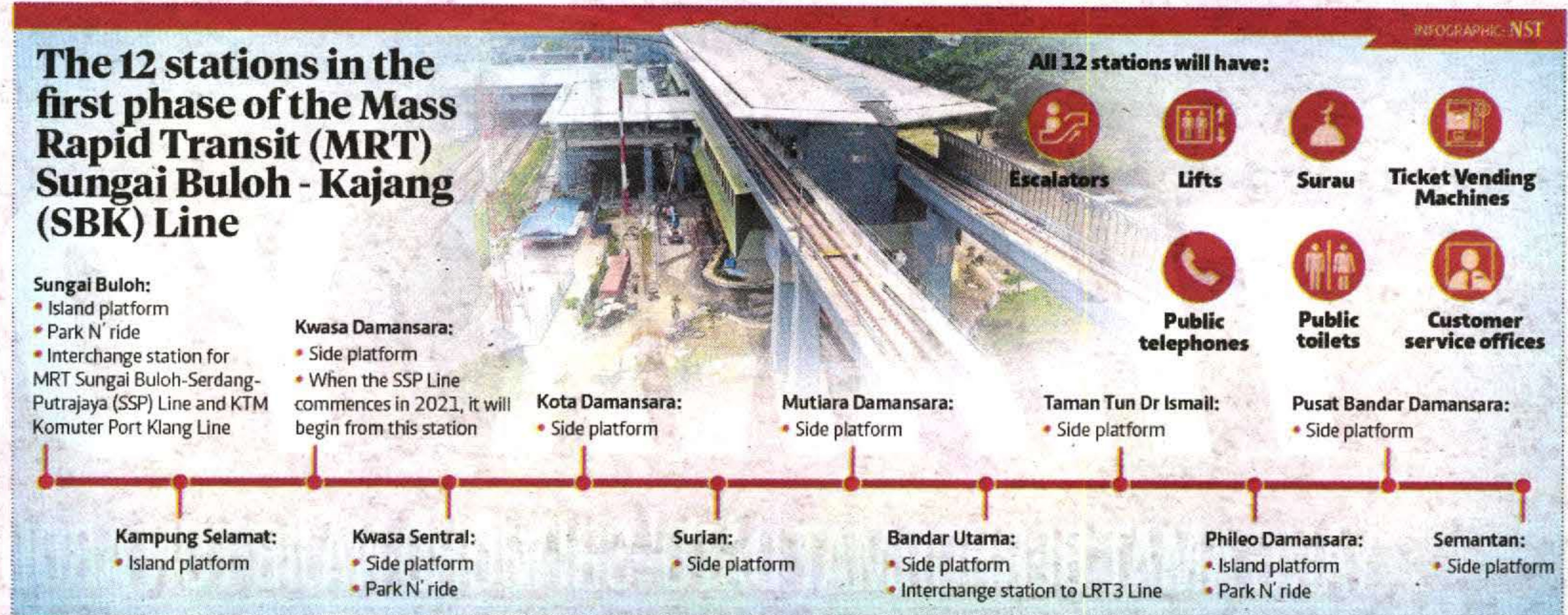
"In the beginning of the project, the government had set a target cost of RM23 billion. This means we managed to save RM2 billion," he said when launching the first phase of the SBK Line at the MRT Kwasa Damansara station here yesterday.

Also present were Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara, Second Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, Chief Secretary to the Government and MRT Corp chairman Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa and MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar.

Najib said the completion date for the SBK Line remained unchanged throughout the five years of its construction.

"It is a project which is completed on time and below budget. As the finance minister, it is my pleasure to learn that it is below budget," he said.

Najib said during the initial



stages, he was worried that the project could not meet the deadline this year, after construction began in July 2011.

"I asked whether the SBK Line could operate at the end of this year, but deep in my heart, I doubted that they could do it.

"What impressed me is that they could complete a mega-project even as other projects are facing delays, including the construction of schools, roads and district hospitals," he said to thunderous applause.

Najib said he made frequent checks at MRT construction sites and could see the development of the stations, depots and the rail track for the MRT SBK Line, which he said was very close to his heart.

Although the government had set 43 per cent of the contracts to be given to Bumiputera contractors, Najib said 50 per cent of the tenders for the first phase were won by them due to their ability to compete and deliver.

"I have also made it a point that fair opportunities should be given to both Bumiputera and non-Bumiputera retailers to operate shops at MRT stations, and will prove it

by giving the offer letters afterwards," said Najib, who later presented letters to 14 retailers.

Najib said more projects would be implemented to develop Malaysia into a first-class nation, including the High-Speed Rail, East Coast Rail Link and Pan Borneo Highway projects.

He said mega-projects, such as the MRT, would also bring other benefits, such as construction works, job opportunities, property value appreciation and increase in productivity.

"Those who helped handle this mega-projects are youths who graduated in various fields. Without such projects, what will happen

to such graduates from both urban and rural areas? They will become jobless," he said.

Ali said the event was the result of five years of toil by everyone, from MRT Corp to its partners.

He said Malaysians, especially those living in the Klang Valley, could now use the MRT after witnessing its construction for the past five years.

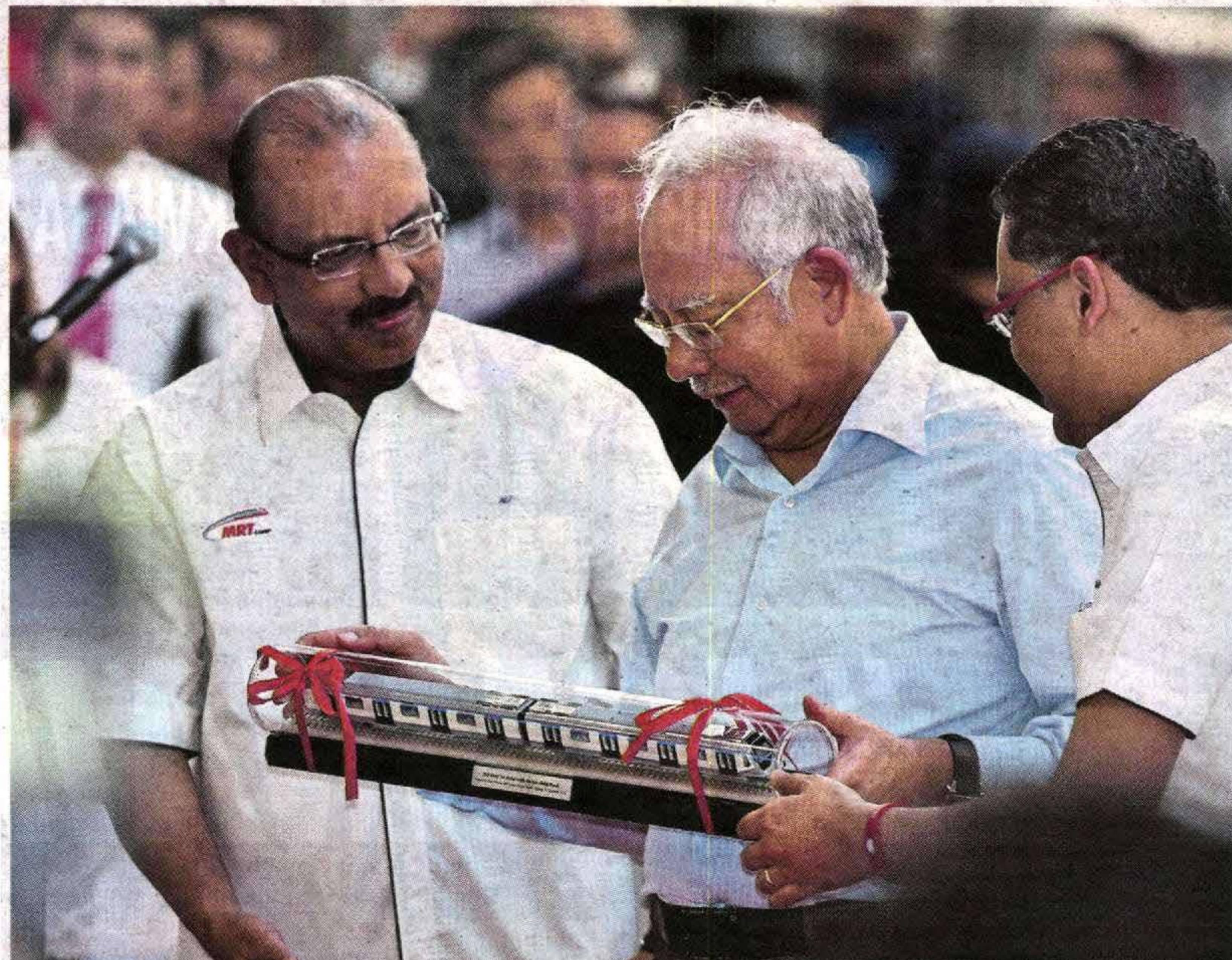
"It is also the strongest proof that the Najib-led government has successfully completed this project for the rakyat, in line with his administration's motto of 'People first, performance now'," he said.

With the launch, MRT Corp has handed over phase one of the SBK

Line to Rapid Rail Sdn Bhd, the subsidiary of Prasarana Malaysia Bhd, which was appointed the operator for the line.

Najib and Sirim Bhd chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali later witnessed the conferring of the ISO9001:2015 certificate to MRT Corp, making it the first railway construction or development-related organisation in the country to receive ISO certification.

Najib also received a model of the SBK Line MRT train, which represents the real trains manufactured by Siemens AG and assembled by local company SMH Rail Sdn Bhd at its plant in Rasa, Hulu Selangor.



Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** with a model of an MRT train after the launch of the **first phase of the Mass Rapid Transit Sungai Buloh-Kajang (MRT SBK) Line** at the MRT Kwasa Damansara station in Sungai Buloh yesterday. With him are Chief Secretary to the Government and MRT Corp chairman **Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa** (left) and MRT Corp chief executive officer **Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar**. Bernama pic