



Passengers taking Mass Rapid Transit train from the Sungai Buloh Station to the Semantan Station yesterday. Pic by Khairull Azry Bidin

# Public turn up in droves to try MRT

**1ST PHASE:** Service, facilities get the thumbs up

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**T**HE public turned up in droves to try out the first phase of the Mass Rapid Transit Sungai Buloh-Kajang (MRT SBK) Line on its first weekend of operation yesterday.

Most were not travelling to a particular destination. They just wanted to experience riding the trains and exploring the stations.

"I can finally take my grandchildren to the movies at 1 Utama Shopping Centre without much hassle," Nasarudin Mohd Sharif, 55, of Sungai Buloh said at the Bandar Utama station.

He added that when the MRT project had been completed, he would be able to visit his siblings in Kajang more often.

He said the ride was very comfortable.

"It is spacious. The gap between the train and the platform is small, which is good for wheelchairs.

"The best thing is that the stations are not far from each other, so the MRT is accessible for everyone," he said.

Naomi Matsumoto, 69, of Japan, who had been living in Mutiara Damansara for eight years but had never visited Cheras, said: "I am looking forward to exploring and meeting new people there when the second phase is complete."

However, while she liked the open concept of the stations, Matsumoto said it could get wet inside when it rained heavy.

"Also, the feeder bus drivers should stop and let passengers off in designated bays. Earlier, the bus

driver stopped on the road and we got off where there were oncoming cars," she added.

Regular commuter Taha Rusydi Muhd Nazri, 26, of Kota Damansara, said the MRT was the best form of public transport he had taken.

"The journey from one station to another was very short. My ride from Surian to Bandar Utama was fast and smooth.

"The stations are very spacious and signboards are much easier to read compared with the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Monorail," he said, adding that the facilities were excellent for pregnant women, the elderly and disabled.

A Sungai Buloh Station officer, who identified himself only as Shah, said many passengers had asked about the second phase.

"They were happy and said they couldn't wait for the whole project to be ready," he said.

Shah said as of 3pm yesterday, there were about 2,700 passengers.