

MEDIA RELEASE

PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES PHASE ONE OF THE MRT SUNGAI BULOH-KAJANG LINE

Kuala Lumpur, 15 December 2016: History was made today when Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak officially launched Phase One of the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line, the country's first MRT line.

The launch that took place at the Kwasa Damansara Station marked the completion of the 21km northern elevated section of the SBK Line, which will begin taking passengers from 6:00am tomorrow (16 December 2016).

This section of the line involves 12 stations between the Sungai Buloh Station and the Semantan Station, namely Kampung Selamat, Kwasa Damansara, Kwasa Sentral, Kota Damansara, Surian, Mutiara Damansara, Bandar Utama, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Phileo Damansara and Pusat Bandar Damansara.

The remainder of the line from Semantan to Kajang, which includes the underground section, will open in July next year under Phase Two operations. Once Phase Two operations takes place, the entire 51 km SBK Line from Sungai Buloh to Kajang will be completely open.

Besides the Prime Minister, the other VIPs present at the event were Minister of Transport Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Finance II Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Dato' Seri Nancy Shukri and Suruhanjaya Pengangkutan Awam Darat Chairman Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Syed Hamid Albar.

Also present were the senior leadership team and staff of MRT Corp, senior management of MMC Gamuda KVMRT (PDP) Sdn Bhd the project delivery partner of the SBK Line, and the senior management of Prasarana Negara Bhd.

In his speech during the launching ceremony, the Prime Minister said today was special for all Malaysians, especially those who lived in the Klang Valley.

"From tomorrow, they will be able to enjoy the most modern public transport service in the country," he said.

Mohd Najib said the MRT Project was very close to his heart and had personally been overseeing every step of its development.



"We have gone through a lot and overcome many challenges to make this project a success. What was regarded as a dream is now a reality," he said.

The Prime Minister said the Project contained all the characteristics which captured the essence of his administration, namely "People First, Performance Now". The launch of the line proved that his administration had delivered on the promises that have been made.

He commended MRT Corp, the Project owner, for completing this section of the Project on time. He also pointed out that with all the contracts for the SBK Line awarded now completed, the actual cost of the Project was just over RM21 billion.

"In the beginning of the Project, the Government had set a target cost of RM23 billion. This means this Project has managed to save about RM2 billion," he said.

With the launch, MRT Corp will now hand over Phase One of the SBK Line to Rapid Rail Sdn Bhd, the subsidiary of Prasarana Malaysia Bhd which was appointed operator for the SBK Line.

"I believe Rapid Rail is more than ready to take on the role of operator of the MRT service, based on their vast experience in operating the LRT, Monorail, buses in the Klang Valley and other parts of the country, and even rail services overseas such as the Mecca Metro Rail," he said.

He said the residents of the Klang Valley now will be relying on Rapid Rail to provide them with the best service.

"I am confident that Rapid Rail will be able to provide a level of service that is efficient, reliable, punctual and safe for all commuters," he said.

The Prime Minister also announced that Rapid Rail will be providing free rides to those using the MRT trains and feeder buses of the SBK Line from tomorrow (16 December 2016) to 16 January 2017. Fares will only be charged from 17 January 2017.

Earlier, MRT Corp Chairman Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, who is also Chief Secretary to the Government, said today was historic as it was the result of five years of toil by everyone from MRT Corp and its partners which had been involved in the Project.

For the people of Malaysia, especially those living in the Klang Valley, he said they could now use the service after witnessing its construction for the past five years.

"For the Government led by Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, this is the strongest proof yet that it has successfully completed this Project that is for the good of the rakyat, in line with his administration's motto, 'People First, Performance Now'," he said.



For the launch gimmick after the conclusion of the speeches, the Prime Minister was invited to place his palm on a screen, which triggered a video of the train journey along the entire Phase One of the SBK Line to come on, showing all the stations and the places of interest near the stations highlighted.

Later during the event, the Prime Minister also handed certificates of participation to the 14 retailers for being part of the MRT Retail Programme. The retailers will be opening outlets in 21 elevated stations of the SBK Line.

The Prime Minister together with Sirim Bhd Chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Tajuddin Ali then witnessed the conferring of the ISO9001:2015 certification to MRT Corp, making it the first railway construction or development-related organisation in Malaysia to achieve this certification. The certificate was presented by Sirim Managing Director Encik Mohd Azanuddin Salleh to MRT Corp Chief Executive Officer Dato' Sri Shahril Mokhtar.

Before the end of the official proceedings, the Prime Minister was presented with a model of the SBK Line MRT train as a memento for this historic event. Manufactured and supplied by Siemens AG, the MRT trains are special for being the first to be fully assembled in Malaysia by local company SMH Rail Sdn Bhd in its train assembly plant in Rasa, Hulu Selangor.

After the conclusion of the official proceedings, the Prime Minister then took the microphone and proudly made an announcement inviting all guests to join him for a ride on the MRT train.

The train travelled from the Kwasa Damansara Station, which is one of two stations in the vast Kwasa Damansara future development, to the Sungai Buloh Station, the northern terminus of the SBK Line.

The entourage then returned to the Kwasa Damansara Station where the event ended.

Construction of the SBK Line, which is the first of the three-line Klang Valley MRT (KVMRT) Project to be constructed, began on 8 July 2011.

The other two lines of the KVMRT Project are the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line of which construction officially began on 15 September 2016; and the MRT Line 3 which is currently undergoing feasibility study.

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