



TRAINSPOTTING

Anyone who lives in Kuala Lumpur would have had the unfortunate experience of being caught in horrific rush-hour traffic. For people who are forced to commute to the city centre, the journey to and from work can be particularly draining, especially on a daily basis.

The launch of the Kajang-Sungai Buloh line of the mass rapid transit (MRT) system may provide some welcome relief to those who hate getting stuck in the daily traffic jam. Seen as a positive step towards a more liveable city, the MRT has been hailed as a vital solution to Kuala Lumpur's transport woes and will perhaps bring a better quality of life to many urbanites. Given the rising cost of living, the MRT will help reduce the burden of having to pay for petrol, parking and tolls, which can add up if you are driving to work every day. People would choose to use public transport if it is more easily available as it is more convenient. Every segment of society can benefit from a good transport system, with individuals becoming more independent and increasingly mobile.

In terms of environmental benefits, a good public transport system helps reduce

fuel usage and congestion. The opening of 19 stations along the MRT line has given Klang Valley-ites a chance to explore other neighbourhoods without having to worry about traffic or look for parking. The launch will definitely benefit the 1.2 million people who live in the surrounding areas. Less time on the road means more time at home with loved ones.

The MRT also paves the way for new opportunities for businesses with more people willing to travel and try new things, while connecting with different people will bring us closer together. For the adventurous foodie, it opens up a whole new realm of possibilities. The satay eateries in Kajang, for example, have seen a huge increase in customers since the line opened last month. The Stadium Kajang MRT station is located next to the famous Medan Satay Kajang and Restoran Sate Kajang Haji Samuri.

Popular foodie stops that you may have missed because of the traffic include the pasar malam at Taman Connaught in Cheras and Pasar Seni in the centre of Kuala Lumpur. With the help of a feeder bus to get to the pasar malam, commuters can feast on street food delights such as

dim sum, stinky tofu and various desserts. The Pasar Seni station offers a welcome opportunity to sample popular nearby coffee shops such as Shin Kee Beef Noodles Specialist and Hon Kee Famous Porridge.

Despite some recent bad news about people vandalising the MRT, some passengers have attracted attention for the right reasons. A young girl recently made the headlines on social media for helping wipe the floor after another passenger spilt a carbonated drink on the train. Even though the passenger had already wiped the floor, she wanted to give it a more thorough cleaning. Many people praised her conscientious behaviour on social media.

In a country that can sometimes appear to be divided, regularly taking the MRT may lead us to discover more about the people around us. We are often stuck in our own bubble, sometimes unaware of the opinions of other people. Being stuck alone in traffic can make us feel disconnected at times. Hence, being around more people on a daily basis may in some way bring about a sense of togetherness. A good public transport system will benefit us in the long run.