

NEWS CLIPPING

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# RM9.7 billion spent on MRT Line 1 so far

> Construction 55% complete as at the end of October: CEO

**PETALING JAYA:** Mass Rapid Transit Corp (MRT Corp) has to date spent RM9.7 billion on the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang Line (Line 1) project, said chief executive Datuk Wira Azhar Abdul Hamid.

He said the RM23 billion allocation for the Line 1 project was given by the government in stages and not a lump sum payment.

"The government-funded project, which is expected to be completed by

July 2017, is running progressively, and given the timeline for the completion, the allocation will be fully used," he added.

Azhar said this at a media briefing on the progress of the MRT project here yesterday.

To date, he said, 78 work packages worth RM21.02 billion had been awarded to the contractors with another seven yet to be awarded. "Five out of the seven projects are valued at RM250 million. The companies for the packages have been shortlisted."

He said the construction of Line 1 was 55.21% complete as at Oct 31, 2014.

"At this pace, we are confident of

achieving our target for the entire line to become operational by July 2017," he said, adding that 53% of the elevated guideway spans were completed.

He said the underground works package, which covered tunnelling and underground station construction had reached 70% completion.

Azhar said the company was in the midst of assembling three trains at its contractor's train assembly in Hulu Selangor.

"We will soon send these trains to the Sungai Buloh depot, which are being built on 73 hectares, for dynamic testing," he added. - Bernama