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Shahril to helm MRT Corp

Azmi tipped to replace him at Prasarana

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PETALING JAYA: It is confirmed that Prasarana Malaysia Bhd group managing director Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar will be helming Mass Rapid Transit Corp Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) effective Jan 1, 2015.

Shahril confirmed this with *StarBiz* yesterday that he would be leaving Prasarana to undertake the responsibility of overseeing the country's biggest infrastructure project.

This was following MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Wira Azhar Abdul Hamid's resignation that was announced on Aug 19, just hours after a worksite accident in which three foreign workers were killed.

Azhar had been on the job since Sept 1, 2011.

Meanwhile, Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) chief development officer Azmi Abdul Aziz has been tipped to replace Shahril at Prasarana.

This new development confirmed *StarBiz*'s report on Oct 8 on the changes that would take place at Prasarana and MRT Corp.

Shahril at MRT Corp would be assuming a bigger responsibility of managing the MRT line 1 project, the RM23bil Sungai Buloh-

Kajang line.

The first MRT line from Sungai Buloh to Kajang is about 50% completed and most of the civil works are expected to be finished by next year.

The MRT Line 1 runs for 51 km and, upon completion, will have 31 stations serving 1.2 million commuters with links to existing public transport systems.

The Government has also approved the second MRT Line of similar cost, unveiled in the recent Budget 2015, from Sungai Buloh to Putrajaya and work would start next year.

The MRT2 project is expected to take five years to be completed, inclusive of pre-advanced works such as land acquisition and moving of utilities.

Shahril was appointed group managing director of Prasarana on Oct 1, 2010.

He was previously the chief operating officer of SPAD.

Prior to that, Shahril was seconded as the adviser to the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department to assist the Government to set up the commission, particularly in drafting the SPAD Act 2010 and the Land Public Transport Act 2010 which were passed by parliament in the same year.

Meanwhile, Azmi's portfolio in SPAD

includes policy and planning, special projects and technology, transformation management as well as knowledge and management.

Prasarana, which is currently busy completing its RM7bil LRT extension programme (LEP) for its existing Kelana Jaya and Ampang lines, will start dishing out work packages of the RM9bil light rail transit line three (LRT 3), most probably from the beginning of the second half of next year.

These two major urban rail projects (MRT line 3 and LRT 3) are considered a boon for the construction industry as they are much needed to sustain the sector's robust activities contributed by the MRT Line 1 in the Klang Valley.

The latest numbers in the construction sector indicate that the sector had experienced a sluggish pace of awards in the third quarter of this year.

MIDF Research in a recent report said the pace of contract awards was relatively sluggish in the third quarter of this year, with only RM2.9bil in total value of contracts being awarded to listed construction companies.

This was comparatively lower than the RM3bil and RM7bil worth of jobs given out in the third quarter of last year and the second quarter of this year, respectively.



Shahril to be new MRT Corp CEO.

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