

Various initiatives to improve public transport, especially rail services

THE government will continue to focus on improving public transportation, especially rail services, according to the 2017/2018 Economic Report.

In this regard, the government has introduced and implemented various initiatives, including the addition of new rail services as well as extension and upgrade of existing networks.

The rail services include the Electric Train Service (ETS), Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 3, East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) and Kuala Lumpur-Singapore high speed rail (HSR) line.

The ETS, operated by Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd, consists of 44 stations that spans 755km.

The MRT development's first stretch was the 51km Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) Line, which has 31 stations, including seven located underground.

A total of 58 trains are operating along the SBK Line, allowing a frequency of one train every 3.5 minutes during peak hours.

Phase One of the SBK Line from Sungai Buloh to Semantan commenced operations on December 16 last year while the second phase from Semantan to Kajang began services on July 17 this year. The SBK Line is capable of transporting about 400,000 passengers daily.

The MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP) Line is the second line to be developed under the Klang Valley Mass Rapid Transit (KVMRT) project.

LRT Line 3, meanwhile, is an addition to the existing LRT lines linking Bandar Utama to Klang. The 37km journey will take 58 minutes and the line targets to serve two million people.

The LRT Line 3 will have 26 stations and is capable of transporting 36,720 passengers an hour.

ECRL is a catalytic infrastructure project for the East Coast Economic Region that improves rail connection in Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan.

The 706.9km track is expected to enhance growth in these states by connecting Port Klang to ports on the east coast as well as to stimulate economic activity.

HSR will be the fastest mode of public transport between Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, travelling 335km in 90 minutes.

The HSR links two major cities to meet growing demand by commuters and businesses. The initiative is in line with the aim of increasing public transport modal share to 40 per cent by 2030 and meeting the demands of the rakyat for a reliable, environmentally-friendly, modern mode of public transportation.

The report noted that improved rail services and efficient connectivity between the urban and rural areas would spur economic activity and contribute towards inclusive growth.

"An efficient and integrated public transport system is vital to fulfilling the needs of the rakyat as they commute daily," the report added.