

MEDIA RELEASE

PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR THE MRT SSP LINE

Kuala Lumpur, 1 March 2018: Work to construct the underground tunnels for the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP) Line commenced today, with the major milestone marked by Prime Minister YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak launching the first tunnel boring machine (TBM) to be used for the project.

The TBM, the first of 12 that will be used for the SSP Line, was launched at the Bandar Malaysia North Launching Shaft at Bandar Malaysia.

With him to launch the TBM were Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) Chairman Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa who is also the Chief Secretary to the Government and MRT Corp Chief Executive Officer Dato' Sri Shahril Mokhtar.

Also present were Transport Minister Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Dato' Sri Nancy Shukri, Suruhanjaya Pengangkutan Awam Darat (SPAD) Chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad and SPAD Chief Executive Officer Encik Azharuddin Mat Sah.

With them were Gamuda Bhd Group Managing Director Dato' Lin Yun Ling and MMC Corporation Bhd Chairman Tan Sri Shamsul Azhar Abbas.

Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) is the Project Owner and Developer of the SSP Line while MMC Gamuda KVMRT (T) Sdn Bhd is the Underground Works Contractor for the SSP Line.

To launch the TBM, the Prime Minister turned a key and pressed a button on a console, triggering a siren as the cutter head of the TBM in the launching shaft nearby began to rotate.



After launching the TBM, the Prime Minister and the VIPs proceeded to view the TBM from the viewing deck at the edge of the launching shaft.

The TBM launched today was a Variable Density TBM which was specifically designed to handle tunnelling through the challenging limestone geological formation in the Klang Valley.

The state-of-the-art TBM was the result of the cooperation between MMC Gamuda and world renowned TBM manufacturer Herrenknecht AG of Germany and was used for the first time in the world for tunnelling works in the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) Line.

Today's TBM was also the first ever to undergo refurbishment in Malaysia. Previously used for the SBK Line, the TBM was refurbished at a facility run by Waiko Engineering Sdn Bhd in Pusing, Perak, the first and only TBM refurbishment facility in Southeast Asia.

This ability was the result of one of the initiatives under the Klang Valley MRT Project Industrial Collaboration Program, which provided the platform to develop high technology in Malaysia via knowledge transfer through cooperation with foreign contractors and suppliers.

The Bandar Malaysia North Station where today's event took place will be just one station away from the future Bandar Malaysia South MRT Station, which will integrate with the future Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High Speed Rail.

This means that besides providing better integration with the other rail lines in the Klang Valley, the SSP Line will also enable seamless transfers with the high speed rail making travel to and from Singapore, as well as the other stations along the HSR, very convenient.

The SSP Line – the second line to be constructed under the Klang Valley MRT Project - has 35 stations, of which 11 are underground stations. The entire alignment will be 52.2km long, of which 13.5km will be underground.

The line will run from Sungai Buloh to Putrajaya through Kepong, Batu, Jalan Ipoh, Titiwangsa, KLCC, Tun Razak Exchange, Bandar Malaysia, Sungai Besi, Serdang, UPM and Cyberjaya.

Phase One of MRT SSP Line from Sungai Buloh to Kampung Batu is expected to be operational by the second quarter of 2021, while the line is expected to be fully operational by the second quarter of 2022.



The MRT SSP Line is capable of carrying 529,000 passengers daily.

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