

PRIME NEWS

# LRT service set to propel growth

NST  
2/7/16  
m/s 8

# BIG IMPACT: RM8b project to improve wellbeing of Klang Valley folk, says PM

## KUALA LUMPUR

**T**HE opening of 25 new stations under the Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension project will benefit about two million people in the Klang Valley, especially those in Petaling district, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

He said the extension routes, which passed through highly-populated areas, such as Kinrara, Puchong and Subang Jaya, would propel the growth of these urban centres. With better public transport system, traffic congestion in Subang Jaya, Glenmarie, Kinrara and Puchong could be reduced.

Among the new stations that started operating on Thursday were Puchong Perdana, Puchong Prima, Ara Damansara, Subang Jaya, USJ 7, Awan Megah and Putra Heights.

"People in these areas finally have access to rail transport," he said in his latest blog posting [NajibRazak.com](http://NajibRazak.com) yesterday.

Najib opened the extended lines with integrated stations in Putra Heights and Subang Jaya, and 15 other new stations that started operating at 6am on Thursday.

Najib said the 15 stations were in addition to eight stations that had been opened between October last year and March.

He said the RM8 billion public rail transport integrated system was a government initiative, intended to improve the wellbeing of Klang Valley residents and visitors.

He also said with a better public transport system, the government targeted a rise in public transport users from 21 per cent to 40 per cent by 2030.

He said Putra Heights would become an integrated public transport hub with bus, KTM Komuter, mono-rail and MRT services.

"I had the opportunity to look at the operations yesterday and I expect about 300,000 commuters to come on board every day."

Najib said work on the route extension, which was started in 2011, was a high-impact economic project and a study had identified a 25 per cent rate of return.

"Soon after assuming the national leadership in 2009, I made the development of a more efficient public transport system my major focus because every major road in and around the city is congested.

"People living and working in the city have been suffering for a long time due to traffic congestion.

"*Insha-Allah* (God willing) by next year, we will be able to enjoy the fruits of another public transport transformation project when the MRT Route 1 is completed," said Najib. **Bernama**



Commuters taking the LRT at Putra Heights station yesterday. Pic by Saddam Yusoff