

## PRIME NEWS

# 'Transform our public transport'

**MRT SSP LINE LAUNCH:** PM urges sector's stakeholders to ensure public satisfaction with all services

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**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday drew up a list of priorities that stakeholders in the public transportation industry must meet to make the sector more efficient.

Chief among them, he said, was ensuring that consumer satisfaction is never compromised.

"I want to stress the need to ensure reliability on all matters relating to public transport services and (to ensure) that public satisfaction is always at its highest possible level," Najib said at the groundbreaking of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line (SSP Line) near Putrajaya Sentral station here yesterday.

Najib called attention to the need for all high-impact public transportation projects to be completed on schedule and on budget. The same, he said, must also apply to other initiatives for the public's benefit.



*Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar (second from right) and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan (right) looking at an exhibit during the MRT SSP Line groundbreaking ceremony in Putrajaya yesterday. Behind Najib is Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa. Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah*

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On his administration's part, Najib said it would continue giving its undivided commitment to ensuring that public transport, especially in the Klang Valley, would be transformed.

"In the past decades, we have not focused enough on the development of the public transport system.

"We are experiencing the consequences of that lack of focus today.

"Traffic congestion is worsening not only in the Klang Valley, but in many cities and on highways, too," he said in his off-the-cuff speech.

The choking effects of traffic congestion, Najib said, would render any city less than ideal to live in and, as a result, become less attractive to visitors and investors.

"Cities in this region are putting in effort to become world class. We cannot afford to lose out and become uncompetitive.

"As such, we are and have been taking decisive actions to catch up on what had not been done before and remedy shortcomings in the public transport ecosystem.

"A much-improved public transport system will be delivered to the rakyat, particularly city dwellers," Najib said.

He also pledged that under his leadership, the government would give its full attention to the modernisation of public transport, saying that this reflected the basis of his administration to "put the people first and performance now".

Present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, who is also MRT Corp chairman, cabinet ministers, as well as MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar.

Najib thanked Ali for bringing at-

tention to the need for the country's capital to be transformed into a world-class city, starting with the public transport system.

On the project delivery partner model applied in the MRT project, Najib said he was upbeat about its success, and that the model could be considered for future government projects.

He said those who had performed

well in the MRT Line 1 project had been given contractor packages for the SSP Line.

"I believe their experience can ensure the success of the SSP line (project)," Najib said, adding efforts put into transforming the nation's public transport sector would boost the "livability factor" of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya.

The MRT SSP Line, he said, would

allow commuters to reach Kuala Lumpur from Putrajaya in 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the SSP Line marked a new milestone in the urban public transport agenda, and would complement the overall Greater KL rail link

He said the line, which provides seamless connectivity via 12 inter-

changes with existing rail services such as the Light Rapid Transit (LRT), KL Monorail, KTM Komuter, Express Rail Link (ERL) and the future Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail, would also benefit more than 500,000 passengers per day once completed.

The 52.2km MRT SSP Line will have 37 stations. It will run from Sungai Buloh to Putrajaya through Kepong, Kampung Batu, Jalan Ipoh, Titiwangsa, KLCC, Tun Razak Exchange, Bandar Malaysia, Sungai Besi, Serdang, UPM and Cyberjaya.

It includes a 13.5km underground track to support 11 stations. The SSP Line will also have 9,200 park-and-ride bays at 15 stations.

Phase one of the SSP Line — between the Sungai Buloh and Kampung Batu stations — is expected to be operational by July 2021, while the entire line is expected to be ready by July 2022.

There will also be an interchange station in Bandar Malaysia South for the future high-speed rail line. **Additional reporting by Fazleena Aziz**

**Page 1 pic: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak officiating the groundbreaking of the Mass Rapid Transit Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line in Putrajaya yesterday. With him are (from left) Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa.**

