

ECRL Project Only 0.02% Delayed Due To MCO

The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project is only 0.02% delayed in its implementation schedule due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) imposed but its construction is now back to normal, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong said. He said the government was committed to ensuring its continuation went on smoothly in line with Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's announcement that the mega project is to continue.

According to Wee, works in Section A spanning 210.4km from Kota Baru in Kelantan to Dungun in Terengganu and Section B from Dungun to Mentakab, Pahang, for 223km are ongoing and have so far completed 16.45%.

For Section C from Mentakab to Port Klang, Selangor, he said it requires a bit of scrutiny and discussions with the respective state governments, as it is a new alignment. "Works on the ECRL alignments that have been determined were underway, with the use of the best method according to the schedules specified for their completion," he said in an interview with the media recently in conjunction with his first 100 days in office as Transport Minister.

On March 27, Muhyiddin pledged to continue all projects under the Budget 2020, including the ECRL, Mass Rapid Transit Line 2 (MRT2), and Optical Fibre and National Connectivity Plan, when launching the Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package.

The 640km ECRL project was resumed after an additional agreement between Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL) and China Communications Construction Company Ltd was signed on April 12, 2019 at a lower cost of RM44 billion compared to its original cost of RM65.5 billion (involving a reduction of the RM21.5 billion). MRL is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Ministry of Finance Inc.

Scheduled for completion in December 2026, the ECRL, which will link Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang in the east coast with Negri Sembilan, Selangor and Putrajaya, is expected to cut travel time between Kota Baru and Putrajaya to approximately four hours at a speed of 160km per hour for passenger trains. - Bernama