

Liow: Efforts will continue to enhance public transport

KAJANG - The launch of the second phase of the first Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line yesterday is a significant milestone in the Government's effort to enhance and improve the urban public transportation network particularly in the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley region, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

Liow said the MRT Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) line, spanning 51km, would provide better accessibility to commuters along the route.

He said the MRT SBK Line was designed to ensure an excellent integration with existing -and future public transportation services such as the Light Rail Transit (LRT), LRT3, MRT2 and the KTM Komuter.

"These interchanges will provide a holistic integrated network of land public transportation as the government aims to provide a safe, secure and seamless public transportation services to the rakyat, "It is my fervent hope that we will continuously enhance the efficiency of the frequency (services) further in the future.

"With the opening of the Semantan- Kajang route today, I strongly believe the number of ridership will increase tremendously," he told reporters when met at the MRT launching ceremony.

Meanwhile, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Said Keruak said the MRT project might be costly but it is built for the people.

"This is a gift from the prime minister to the country. Let us celebrate this achievement which is yet another symbol of the country's public transport infrastructure development successes," he said in his blog, sskeruak.blogspot.my, yesterday.

Salleh said the MRT would not only save travel time and cost for the people but also minimise traffic congestion with a reduction of 160,000 vehicle entries into the city daily.

The MRT, he said, would also reduce pollution and facilitate travel arrangements as it had a set schedule.

For the government's substantial investment in preparing transport facilities for the people, Malaysia was now ranked 11th among 138 nations in the Global Competitive Index 2016-2017 in transport infrastructure development, he noted.

In this regard, Malaysia's position was better than other Asean countries such as Indonesia (36), Thailand (37), Vietnam (63), Philippines (90) and Laos (110).