

Najib: LRT3 is proof of Govt's diligent planning

SHAH ALAM: The Light Rail Transit 3 (LRT3) project is a manifestation of the diligent and careful planning of the Government Transformation Programme, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

Easy mobility was a catalyst in generating the nation's economy, the Prime Minister said. Najib said an integrated transportation system was much needed given the expected population growth of 10 million in greater Kuala Lumpur and Klang Valley by 2020.

A bigger population meant that the country needed methods to ease traffic congestion, he added. Speaking at the launch of LRT3 project here yesterday, he said the rail network in the country had proven that the task could indeed be achieved.

Also at the launch yesterday was Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azmin Ali. The 37km rail alignment will provide accessibility to commuters in Klang, Shah Alam and Petaling Jaya.

Construction is scheduled to begin early 2017 and is expected to be completed by Aug 31, 2020 with a capped cost of RM9bil. In a statement later, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai described the LRT3 project as a new milestone in urban rail transportation.

"As the population within the Western Corridor of Klang Valley grows, the increased capacity and connectivity offered by the LRT3 will encourage modal transfer from private vehicles, reduce congestion and improve quality of life.

"LRT3 will continue to address issues raised in the Urban Rail Development Plan, which is focused on the need for a more efficient transportation network within the suburban areas of Klang Valley," he said.

Liow said other Government initiatives included the capacity increase for the existing Kelana Jaya and Ampang LRT lines, the GO KL free bus services, the Sunway Bus Rapid Transit, the LRT Extension Project and Mass Rapid Transit Line 1.

"We recognise the importance of maximising the benefit of LRT3, that is why the rail was designed to ensure integration with existing and future public transportation services such as the MRT1, LRT, BRT and the KTM.

"These interchanges will reduce the barriers of making a land public transport journey while reducing the overload at the current public transportation network," he said, adding that these public transport projects had increased the modal share of urban public transportation from 10% in 2009 to 20% last year. "Our target is to increase it to 40% by 2030," he added.
