

## **'Proposed East Coast Rail Line not too costly'**

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Transport Ministry has rubbished claims by the opposition that the construction of the RMSS billion East Coast Rail Line (ECRL), which was announced in the 2017 Budget, was too costly.

Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Kaprawi said the total cost for the construction of the ECRL had yet to be finalised, and that the RMSS billion figure was a rough estimation.

"The final figure has not been determined as the project is in its planning stage. The details of the project will be finalised by the Economic Planning Unit and the Finance Ministry," he said yesterday.

He added that the government would be "very thorough" (in planning the project) before revealing the final cost of the project, which has been in the pipeline since 2014, during the unveiling of the 11th Malaysia Plan.

"The opposition is jumping to conclusions. They don't have the full details, nor have they looked at the technical specifications." Pas's Pokok Sena member of parliament Datuk Mahfuz Omar on Monday called for a committee to be set up to audit the construction of ERCL, saying it was too expensive.

"What is the rationale for the RMSS billion construction - at a cost of RM91 million per km? "The Electric Train Service project, which has dual electrified tracks from Negeri Sembilan to Johor, costs only RM3 million," Mahfuz was Quoted as saving.

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