



**TEXT SPEECH
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
LAUNCHING OF BLUE TRAIN (MALAYAN TIGER TRAIN)
JB SENTRAL STATION , JOHOR BAHRU
19th DECEMBER 2011 / MONDAY**

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MEMBERS FROM JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
(JICA)

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

MEMBERS FROM KTM BERHAD

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

A VERY GOOD EVENING, SALAM SEJAHTERA AND SALAM SATU MALAYSIA .

FIRST AND FOREMOST, ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK KTM BERHAD FOR INVITING ME TO ATTEND TO THE MEANINGFUL EVENT, THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF BLUE TRAIN KNOWN AS MALAYAN TIGER TRAIN.

I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY MY MOST SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE 14 UNITS OF BLUE COACH FROM JR WEST AND JR KYUSHU WITHOUT ANY COSTS. ALL THE COACHES ARRIVED SAFELY ON 9th DECEMBER 2010 AND HAD BEEN UNDERGOING OVERHAUL AND REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME. THESE 14 UNITS OF BLUE COACHES HAVE BEEN COMMENCED SINCE 16th DECEMBER 2011.

APART OF CONTRIBUTING COACHES FOR FREE, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT INITIATE TO SPONSOR EIGHT ENGINEERS FROM KTM BERHAD TO ATTEND INTRODUCTION TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE OF BLUE COACH AT HOKKAIDO, JAPAN FROM 4th AUGUST 2011 TILL 27th AUGUST 2011.

WHAT MAKES THE COACHES IMPRESSIVE FOR US IN MALAYSIA IS THE INTENSIVE CARE OF THE COACHES FROM BOTH RAILWAY OPERATORS IN JAPAN, JR KYUSHU AND JR WEST. THESE COACHES WHICH AGED BETWEEN 30 TO 40 YEARS OLD, STILL OWNS GOOD EXTERNAL BODY STRUCTURE AND WELL MAINTAINED INTERIOR. THE BLUE COACH WHICH OPERATES AS BLUE TRAIN WAS ONCE KNOWN AS THE MOST FAMOUS TRAIN SERVICE IN JAPAN, NAMELY THE FUJI HAYABUSA SERVICE PLIES BETWEEN TOKYO – OITA FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS AND RETIRED ON 13th MARCH 2009.

AFTER SERVING THE JAPANESE, THE COACHES ARE NOW READY TO WELCOME ESPECIALLY MALAYSIA CITIZEN TO EXPERIENCE THE ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY IN JAPAN.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

AFTER INSPECTING THE PHYSICAL OF THE COACHES, BASED ON NEEDS AND DEMANDS FROM USERS, KTM BERHAD WILL BE OPERATING THESE BLUE COACHES FROM SOUTHERN SECTOR TO EAST COAST SECTOR. THE SERVICE WILL BE KNOWN AS MALAYAN TIGER TRAIN. THE NAME OF MALAYAN TIGER TRAIN IS TAKEN FROM THE SPIRIT OF TIGER WHICH REPRESENTS THE COURAGE AND PERSISTANCE OF MALAYSIA. PRESENTLY, THIS TRAIN WILL BE OPERATING BETWEEN TWO CITIES, JB SENTRAL – TUMPAT – JB SENTRAL.

SOME INTERESTING FEATURES OF MALAYAN TIGER TRAIN IS VARIOUS TYPES OF CLASSES OFFERED SUCH AS THE FIRST CLASS CABIN FOR SINGLE TRAVELLER, SECOND CLASS SLEEPING COMPARTMENT AND SECOND CLASS SEAT COACH. SOME COACHES DOES HAVE THEIR OWN UNIQUENESS WHICH THE EXISTING KTM INTERCITY COACHES DOESN'T HAVE THE FEATURES. ASIDE FROM THAT, THE SECOND CLASS SEAT COULD BE ADJUSTABLE BASED ON INDIVIDUAL COMFORT AND THE SEAT CAN BE ROTATE BY FOLLOWING THE TRAIN DIRECTION. OTHER FACILITIES SUCH AS USER FRIENDLY TOILET ONBOARD AND GOOD AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND I BELIEVED THAT THE DEMAND FROM TOURIST ESPECIALLY THE JAPANESE, PROJECTS THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND INTEREST TO TRY THE BLUE COACH. WITH THE MALAYAN TIGER TRAIN ON OPERATING, THESE WILL BOOST THE RIDERSHIP CAPACITY FOR EAST COAST SECTOR UP TO 17% COMPARED TO YEAR 2010 AND ESTIMATED GENERATING INCOME WOULD BE AS MUCH AS RM6.5 MILLION ANNUALLY.

THE INTRODUCTION OF MTT SERVICE DOES NOT ONLY ATTRACT LOCAL PASSENGERS FROM LOCAL TRAIN SERVICES BUT IS ALSO EXTENDED FOR TOURISTS ESPECIALLY FROM JAPAN. IN ADDITION, THE INTRODUCTION WILL ALSO OPEN MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR

THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM PRODUCTS FOR THE EASTERN REGION AND SOUTHERN REGION INCLUDING SINGAPORE. THE GOAL OF OPERATING THE MTT IS ALSO TO ENCOURAGE THE DOMESTIC TOURISM FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECO-TOURISM AND HOMESTAY ALONG THE ROUTE. THE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST COAST IS LOCATED IN THE EAST COAST ECONOMIC REGENT (ECER) WHICH FOCUSES NOT ONLY FROM THE ASPECT OF DOWNSTREAM PRODUCTS BUT ALSO ON RAIL TRAVEL. KTM BERHAD INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE MTT, HAS BEEN A CATALYST FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE OVERALL ECONOMIC CORRIDORS, WHICH IN TURN WILL TRIGGER THE PRODUCTIVITY OF RURAL COMMUNITIES AND RURAL LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY.

I SINCERELY HOPE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND JAPAN WILL BE EXTENDED AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON RAILWAY ENGINEERING BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES WILL BE STRENGTHENED NEAR IN THE FUTURE.

TO ALL VALUED PASSENGERS WHO KEEN ON TRYING THE MALAYAN TIGER TRAIN CAN START PURCHASE THEIR TICKETS AT YOUR NEAREST KTM INTERCITY COUNTER. THE FARES ARE REASONABLE BASED ON DIFFERENT CLASSES OFFERED.

BEFORE I END MY SPEECH, I WOULD ALSO INFORM TO EVERYONE THAT THE MALAYAN TIGER TRAIN WHICH BEGUN ITS OPERATION SINCE 16th DECEMBER 2011 WILL BE OPERATING ON SINGLE TRIP DAILY THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

WITHOUT FURTHER ADIEU, I AM PROUD TO LAUNCH THE MALAYAN
TIGER TRAIN TO EVERYONE BETWEEN JB SENTRAL – TUMPAT – JB
SENTRAL.

THANK YOU.

19 DISEMBER 2011