

On track for end-2019 completion

KUALA LUMPUR: The KTM Klang Valley Double Track (KVDT) project, which will reduce the waiting time for KTM Komuter by half, is right on schedule for completion in 2019.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said 31.62% of the KVDT Phase One between the Rawang-Salak Selatan and Sentul-Simpang Batu lines had been completed.

“High-tech machinery used for the project means that it only takes 10 minutes to place the new electric tracks instead of two hours with ordinary machinery or two days without any machine.

“Our work time is short but we are confident that we can finish Phase One by the end of 2019 as scheduled,” he said after formally launching the KVDT project here yesterday.

The KVDT also includes the upgrading of KTM’s 16 stations as well as the signalling and electrification system for the overall network. A total of RM1.41bil has been set aside for the first phase which began in the third quarter of 2016.

Liow said Phase Two, which has yet to be launched, would cover similar upgrading works for the KL Sentral-Port Klang and Salak Selatan-Seremban lines. At the moment, Liow said KTM Komuter had a 95% punctuality score at peak hours and a frequency of 15 minutes. “This will be reduced to just seven-and-a-half minutes once the KVDT is completed. It can be described as similar to the standard ‘Metro’ trains, with services that are equal to LRT and MRT,” he said.

Liow said more trains would be added to meet demand. “We only have 10 ETS trains and 38 sets of locomotives to cover the Klang Valley. The other trains are conventional ones, not electric.

During my recent trip to Hunan, China, I approved the purchase of 22 ETS train coaches which will arrive by 2019 in time for the completion of the KVDT Phase One,” he said.

The coaches were bought from a subsidiary of China’s largest locomotive manufacturer – CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive Co of China Southern Rail Group – for about RM800mil.