

# Plan for north-south electric train service

MALACCA, Mon. — Malaysia plans to introduce an electric train service between Johor Baru and Bukit Kayu Hitam to provide rapid transportation to the people. **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said today.

The Prime Minister said that the Government was now on the verge of commissioning a feasibility study on the project.

"We have decided on the project," he said, adding that several foreign parties, including France, had offered to conduct the study.

Dr Mahathir could not specify when the study would begin but believed it would take between six months and a year to complete.

"It is a major project. We have not set a timeframe for it to start or when it will be completed," he said at a Press conference after launching the Ormasteel Enterprise Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd in Ayer Keroh.

The plan was a follow-up to the introduction of electric train services between Seremban and Rawang via Kuala Lumpur and between Kuala Lumpur and Port Klang under the ongoing double-tracking project.

Dr Mahathir said to enable the electric train project to be implemented, the Government either there was a need to straighten and realign the railway tracks for the trains to run faster.

The Prime Minister had also made a passing reference to the electric train project during the ground-breaking ceremony of the Composites Technology City at Batu Berendam earlier in the morning.

He said the proposed electric train service would provide more alternatives to commuters.

"Train services have proven efficient in advanced countries like Japan and developing countries like India. Why can't we have it?"

The Prime Minister said he could not provide details of the proposed project until the study was completed, but it could possibly be linked to the train services in Thailand and Singapore to make it a trans-regional Asean train network.

Dr Mahathir said the network might also be connected to the proposed rail link from the new Kuala Lumpur international airport at Sepang, Selangor, to Kuala Lumpur and other major cities and towns.

Asked whether Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd would

PLEASE TURN TO  
PAGE 2, COL 5

## Why no decision on upgrading Malacca airport

FROM PAGE ONE  
be given the project, Dr Mahathir said:

"Maybe we can leave it to KTM... maybe the government will invest in it and

later offer it to KTM. We don't know yet."

He also explained why the federal government had not decided to upgrade the Batu Berendam airport to

international status.

He said with the existence of the North-South Highway, more people opted to travel by road instead of flying as travelling time

had become shorter.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik, in his speech, had expressed his wish to have the airport upgraded.