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Ling-commuter

KTM TO BUILD DUAL TRACK LINK UP WITH SINGAPORE

JOHOR BHARU, March 8 (Bernama) -- Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTM) will build a dual-track railway link with Tanjung Pagar, Singapore, in addition to the KTM commuter service that will come into operation at the year end.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ling Lion Sik said today the track would also provide an extension to the Kulai-Senai-Johor Baharu service that was recently announced.

Negotiations were being carried out with the Singapore government on land acquisition, and also for approval to relocate the existing water supply pipes at the Johor Causeway to make way for the second railway link.

"Tenders will be called in the middle of the year for the project, expected to be ready by 1998," he told reporters after opening the Langkawi Project resources centre at the Lumba Kuda Flats, here.

Ling said the railway commuter service would be the ideal choice for Malaysians who wished to travel to and from Singapore.

Dr Ling said the present developments in Cambodia and Vietnam were among the problems that hampered work on the proposed electric train service between Singapore and Kuming, China.

The tracks on the Singapore-Malaysia-Bangkok route were already there, but the 48km link between the Thai border town of Poipet and Saisaphon on the Cambodian side was under the Khmer Rouge control.

Tracks were available between Saisaphon and Phnom Penh, but not on the 240km stretch between Phom Penh and Ho Chi Min City in Vietnam, he added.

Malaysia was appointed chairman of the special committee to study the project, which was proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Asean meeting in Bangkok last December.

Earlier, Dr Ling said the MCA Langkawi project would continue to provide assistance to all strata of society in upgrading education.--

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