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Railway

PROPOSAL TO EXTEND ELECTRIC TRAIN SERVICE TO SINGAPORE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- The proposal to extend the electric train service from Johor Baharu to Singapore is being considered by the government of both countries, Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad managing director Datuk Abdul Rahim Osman said today.

He said that the plan agreed to so far was the Kulai-Senai-Johor Baharu stretch which could end in Tanjung Pagar, Singapore.

"If both the governments agree, the electric train network will incorporate the existing system in the neighbouring country," he told reporters after opening the train system model designing competition here.

He said the tender for the setting up of the system and infrastructure facilities was still open and would be closed at the end of September.

Asked on developments relating to tilting train service, Abdul Rahim said preliminary double tracking works, the main requirement for the service, was being carried out between Rawang and Ipoh.

"When the double tracking system between Rawang and Ipoh is ready, we will have a stretch of tracks for the service which will later link Seremban to Ipoh," he said.

The idea on the tilting train was mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad while on his visit to Japan last year. The tilting train service can save travelling time from seven hours to three-and-a-half hours for the journey from Kuala Lumpur to Singapore.

When asked on the KTM Berhad's operating capacity during power failure, Abdul Rahim said the company had three sub-stations to run the trains.

However, he said, the sub-stations could only run the trains if the power disruption was localised and not when the whole country was affected like the Aug 3 power failure.

Earlier, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yasin opened the designing competition which was held for the first time to encourage creativity among schoolchildren. -- BERNAMA

HJ ARA RM