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LRT starts Bukit Jalil run in July

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STAR-LRT will start its revenue service run to its southern extension in Bukit Jalil, the venue of the 16th Commonwealth Games and its village, on July 1. Test runs on the 11.8km extension started in April.

Its head of public relations and marketing, Yap Bee Lee, said the testing and commissioning of the coaches under Phase II began in April and the train arrives at each station at seven minutes interval.

She said with the three-vehicle train configuration, the running of the train simultaneously tested the new tracks, power and signalling transmission systems while training personnel, besides looking into the safety and security aspects.

Yap said the simulation will continue until the official launch of the Star-LRT train service to the Bukit Jalil Sports Complex by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 11.

She said Dr Mahathir will take a 24-minute train ride from the Sultan Ismail station to the Bukit Jalil station where he will open the station which is the largest among the 25 stations in the 27km track under Phase I and II.

From there he will ride a special electric buggy to the Bukit Jalil sports complex which will be the venue for the Games between Sept 11 and 12.

She said a white membrane roof over the platform had been used which blended well with a similar roof used at the stadium at the nearby sports complex.

"The membrane roof diffuses the sunlight on the platform during the day, while giving out a soft glow during the night," she said.

"We have sought to give the feeling of spaciousness, expansiveness and drama that accompanies sporting events.

"This is achieved by using large spans, lightweight materials, light colours, exposed steel roofing structures, strong lines and diagonals formed by the stairs and escalators leading up the platform."

Yap said for better crowd management the frequency of the train arrivals limited 1,200 passengers on the platform at any one time thus reducing the chances of accidents.

She said the trains in the three-vehicle configuration would be able to ferry 1,200 passengers from the present 800, with 400 passengers in each vehicle.

The line, she added, had been constructed to cater for a maximum demand of up to 24,000 passengers per hour per direction and will be adequate to ferry passengers from Bukit Jalil to the city centre," she said.

Yap said the last train leaves the Sultan Ismail Station at 12.04am daily while during the Games's opening and closing day the service will be extended up to 2am with train frequency of one every three minutes.

"Commuters can expect the comfort, reliability and predictability associated with the Star-LRT system," she said.

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