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Bus

M'SIAN BUS COMPANY TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH SUDAN IN OCTOBER

PETALING JAYA, June 23 (Bernama) -- The Metrobus Group is expected to sign an agreement with Sudan in October to implement the integrated franchise system to modernise the public transportation services in the African country.

Mustafa Kamal Wathooth, Managing Director of Metro Transportation Systems Sdn Bhd, the group's subsidiary that markets the franchise, said the company and Sudan Transport Ministry are currently studying the project which involves implementing public transportation policy and service through an integrated franchise concept.

"We expect the study to be completed in about three months and conclude the agreement soon after that," he told Bernama after briefing the Sudanese Ambassador to Malaysia Omar Osman elHassan at the company's office in Subang Jaya near here today.

Metrobus Group owns the intellectual property to the system under which the operation of a bus service is split into four main parts and franchised to separate entrepreneurs.

The four main franchises under the system are the bus routes, repairs and maintenance, tyre shop and materials like diesel, lubricants, spare parts and hardware.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the venture was signed with the Sudanese government during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to the country last month.

Mustafa Kamal said that based on the six million population in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, the company hoped to export about a thousand buses a year for the next six years.

"But we are working towards producing buses using the kit concept where components are produced here and then assemble in Sudan," he said.

He said Sudan with a total population of 28 million would need at least 20,000 buses for an efficient public transportation system.

On the franchisers, he said the company and the Sudanese government would jointly select them.

He said the Sudanese ambassador pledged his country's full support for the project and requested it to be carried out as soon as possible.

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