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Trial LRT runs to Games village

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STAR-LRT has now gone full gear into preparing to service the 16th Commonwealth Games by conducting test runs to the Games village in Bukit Jalil.

Its head of public relations and marketing, Yap Bee Lee, said the testing and commissioning of the coaches on 11.8km of tracks under phase II of its southern extension began three weeks ago.

She said the test runs began in April with a three-vehicle train configuration that simultaneously tested the new tracks, power and signalling transmission and training of 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 the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 11.

"For use on Phase II (to Bukit Jalil), the trains are converted from the present two-vehicle to three-vehicle configuration making it considerably longer, thus requiring the stopping position on the platform to be changed.

"As there will be a period where both the two and three-vehicle trains will be in operation, all trains will make their stop at the furthest end of the platform.

"The trains in three-vehicle configuration will be able to ferry 1,200 passengers from the present 800, with 400 passengers in each vehicle.

"The line has been constructed to cater for a maximum demand of up to 24,000 passengers per hour per direction," she said.

Yap said Star will be charging RM2.90 as single trip fare for passengers travelling about 12km from the Sultan Ismail station to the Sri Petaling station (formerly Komanwel station).

She said the company will also introduce return trip tickets at twice the price for a normal single trip ticket, for the convenience of passengers.

She said all stations will have coin operated ticket vending machines for selling single trip tickets for the time being. The machines will only be able to accept notes after note acceptors are fitted in August.

"While these machines will not be fully operational until July, we will be carrying out some tests and commuters may be asked to assist by purchasing tickets from the machines.

"Commuters can expect the comfort, reliability and predictability of the Star-LRT system and the journey from the Sultan Ismail station in the city centre to the Games Village is expected to take only 24 minutes.

"During the Commonwealth Games held between Sept 11 and 21, the frequency of trains will be increased. Especially for the opening and closing ceremonies, trains will operate every three minutes," she said.

Yap said RM20 and RM50 concession stored value tickets, which will give a discount of 50 per cent on the normal single trip fare, will soon be introduced to children aged between six and 12, and those in school uniform.

Leaflets informing the public of the new route, the new systems, as well as how to use them will be made available to the public next month, before the service commences in July.

"We will also be operating test trains for Phase II on the Phase I line between the Sultan Ismail and Ampang stations, and commuters are requested

not to board any train bearing the sign "Test Train".

"All stations for Phase II will be equipped with a new public address system and those stations where commuters have a choice of destinations will be equipped with a destination display showing the next destination.

"Commuters are advised to ignore the new public address system that is being tested."

Yap said six stations were recently renamed to reflect the locality where they are sited.

They are Sentul - formerly Bandar Baru Sentul, Titiwangsa from the previous Tun Razak, Cheras from Seri Mas, Bandar Tun Razak from Mulia, Bukit Jalil from Sukan Negara and Sri Petaling from Komanwel.

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