

# Smooth ride on the ERL train service

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KUALA LUMPUR: Journalists on board the Express Rail Link (ERL) on a trial run to KLIA from KL Sentral found it to be an exceptionally smooth and comfortable journey even at its top speed of 160kph.

The special train with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on board yesterday managed to attain its maximum speed as quickly as 10 minutes into the journey as the train passed Universiti Putra Malaysia. It continued cruising at this speed until it drew near the end of its 57km journey - KLIA.

Packed with VIPs and journalists, the ride was devoid of the bumps of conventional trains when the wheels run over track joints.

The clean and simple design of the train interior, with passengers having more than enough leg room, made the journey very pleasant.

The first part of the journey involved running through the southern suburbs of Kuala Lumpur. The tracks ran parallel to Keretapi Tanah Melayu tracks until Serdang where it diverged. The scenery was then of green fields and oil palm plantations, until the train travelled past the many construction sites of Putrajaya and Cyberjaya.

The approach to KLIA was impressive as the train ran along an elevated track over Sungai Labu and the KLIA ring road before descending beside the runway, and finally entering the main terminal building of KLIA at the lowest level.

Due to the design of the airport

terminal building, passengers would have to take escalators or lifts to the fifth floor of the terminal building for departure. Similarly, arriving passengers would also have to take escalators or lifts from the third level to the lower level to reach the trains.

After a short look around at KLIA, Dr Mahathir reboarded the train and was taken to the Air Rail Complex next to the Salak Tinggi station where the depot and control centre were located.

Present to brief Dr Mahathir were ERL executive chairman Datuk Nadzmi Salleh and chief executive officer Dr Aminuddin Adnan.

ERL, which is a 60:40 joint venture between Tabung Haji Technologies Sdn Bhd and YTL Corporation Bhd, will be operating

two train services between KL Sentral and KLIA.

The KLIA Express will run directly between KL Sentral and KLIA, while the KLIA Transit will stop at three intermediate stations at Bandar Tasik Selatan, Putrajaya and Salak Tinggi.

KLIA Express would run first on April 19 while KLIA Transit service would only start in June.

Passengers would be able to check in their luggages at the KL City Air Terminal in KL Sentral before boarding the train to KLIA. Once they arrive at KLIA, these passengers would be able to proceed immediately to board their planes. Arriving passengers would also be able to check their baggage through to the KL Sentral air terminal.