

09 JAN 2004

KTM

KTM COMMUTER TRAIN SERVICE TO BE EXTENDED TO TANJUNG MALIM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- The KTM commuter train service will be extended to Tanjung Malim by the end of next year, KTM Berhad Managing Director Mohd Salleh Abdullah said today.

At present the service ended in Rawang and with the completion of the double track project, the service would be extended to Tanjung Malim, he said at the opening of the new RM18.6 million commuter train workshop and depot in Sentul here by KTM Berhad Chairman Tan Sri Thong Yaw Hong.

Mohd Salleh also said a new commuter train halt at Mid-Valley Megamall shopping complex here would be ready in August this year and another one in Kepong would be operational by early next year.

Work on the Sentul-Batu Caves line would also begin soon, he added.

"KTM is also working on providing bigger car parks at railway stations as well as increasing the number of ticket vending machines at stations and selected halts."

He said the KTM commuter trains were patronised by some 70,000 people daily at present compared with 28,000 during the initial stage of operation in 1995.

On the new commuter train workshop and depot, he said it was a long term measure to provide more efficient service to commuters.

Work on the depot began in November 2002 and completed at the end of last year.

It is equipped with state-of-the-art railway technology for commuter train overhaul and repairs.

Thong, at a media conference later, hoped the with new depot KTM service would be more efficient and punctual.

"We do hope that we will be able to continue to provide an efficient service to the public," he said.

Meanwhile a Seremban-Kuala Lumpur commuter said without the drive and interest shown in the commuter train project by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia today would not have any electric train service.

With the retirement of Tun Dr Mahathir KTM had lost a good friend and supporter, he said.

-- BERNAMA

ST HS AAM