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INDON-MONORAIL

PROPOSED JAKARTA MONORAIL PROJECT WITH M'SIAN FIRM IN A GLITCH

JAKARTA, Jan 20 (Bernama) - The proposed Jakarta monorail project, to be developed by a consortium that also includes a Malaysian company, is facing a glitch due to a dispute with the city authority over the zone of operation.

Jakarta Governor Sutiyoso said that the project covering a distance of 27km, dual-line elevated monorail system costing some US\$540 million, due to be launched next month, might be delayed if the problem was not settled soon.

"We have to find other investors from Singapore or Britain if the consortium fail to meet the time schedule set for the project," he said here when commenting on the proposed project, part of the public transportation programme to reduce chronic traffic jam in this city of 12 million people.

The consortium PT Indonesian Transit Central (ITC) - that comprise PT Adhi Karya, Global Prefes Synergy and Radiant Utama, and M. Trans Holding Sdn Bhd, had signed an agreement in Kuching, Sarawak last August, to develop the project.

The signing was witnessed by the then Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed and President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who was on a state visit to the neighbouring country.

M Trans Holding, was said to be interested to develop only the lucrative zone known as the "green-line," a 14.8km ring serving the Indonesian capital's golden triangle of Sudirman Road, Senayan and Kuningan, with 16 stations.

The other section of the project involves the "blue line" described as less lucrative ring of 12.2km rail, connecting Kampung Melayu in East Jakarta, and Roxy in West Jakarta, to serve 13 stations.

The entire project expected to be completed in two and half years, will to connect Bekasi in the East and Tangerang, to the west of the capital.

The city authority had last Thursday, launched a busway system from Blok M, in the southern region to the Kota Railway Station in the northern corridor of the city, as part of its integrated effort to improve the public transportation system to reduce traffic congestion.

Sutiyoso said that he would open its offer to other investors from Singapore or Britain which had also registered their interests, if the Malaysian-backed consortium failed to meet the need of the city's public transportation programme.

Meanwhile, PT ITC director, Sukmawati Sjukur, was quoted by the English daily "The Jakarta Post" as saying that the consortium was still negotiating with the Malaysian partner over the issue.

She said that if the negotiation ended in a deadlock, the consortium would look for other source of finance like firms from Japan or Canada, which had also submitted their offers. -- BERNAMA

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