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More trains to ply Padang Besar-JB route from 2012

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - There will be a substantial increase in train trips from Padang Besar to Johor Baru once the double rail tracks are completed in 2012.

At present, only 25 trains travel daily on single tracks along the length of Peninsular Malaysia.

Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad's double tracking project is another by-product of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision.

KTMB managing director Mohd Salleh Abdullah said they had a lot to thank Dr Mahathir for.

"We thank him for proposing the double tracking project. The capacity to transport passenger and cargo trains will increase 10-fold," he said at KTMB headquarters today.

Also present was its chairman Tan Sri Thong Yaw Hong, who earlier launched KTMB's banner as a tribute to Dr Mahathir.

Thong expressed his gratitude to Dr Mahathir for his guidance in developing the nation.

Thong had mixed feelings about Dr Mahathir's retirement.

"We are sad he will no longer be our Prime Minister.

"However, we are happy he will enjoy a well-deserved leave and spend more time with his family.

"KTMB wishes him a long life and excellent health always."