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PM to launch KL Monorail today

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The KL Monorail transit system officially opens tomorrow.

The Transport Ministry had ensured all the safety mechanisms were in place before issuing the operating licence to the operator, said Patrick Wong, executive director of MTrans Holdings, the parent company of KL Monorail System.

"Security is not an issue anymore because all precautionary measures, including redesigning of certain parts of the system, have been done to minimise all technical risks," Wong said today.

The RM1.18 billion innercity transit system was to have been launched last September, but was postponed after a 13.4kg safety wheel came off and fell on a Bernama reporter who was walking under the overhead tracks during a trial run on Aug 16 last year.

"The Railways Department often checked on our progress. Until a fortnight ago, they had been making daily checks," said Wong.

The official launch by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at 2.30pm tomorrow will be held at the Bukit Bintang station in Jalan Sultan Ismail.

Malaysians coming out for the Merdeka Day celebrations tomorrow can try out the monorail from 4pm onwards, at only RM1 for each journey, which is the special rate for September.

Fifty per cent of all fares collected during the period will be donated to charitable organisations.

"The 10,000th person who had registered to ride on the monorail last year can collect four free passes each at the station (Bukit Bintang) for a ride on any day in September," said Wong.

Tickets for a ride on the monorail system, which stretches 8.6km from Titiwangsa to KL Sentral, are priced from RM1.20 to RM2.50. There are 11 stations in the monorail link.

The monorail can travel up to 90kph with up to 214 passengers. It is estimated that it could reduce inner-city road traffic by 15 per cent.

Meanwhile, the STAR and Putra Light Rail Transit systems are offering a flat rate of RM2 for return journeys between 5.30am and 9am on National Day to KL Sentral and Bandar Tasik Selatan.