

# Monorail job: No need for S'pore

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**JOHOR BARU:** An Umno leader yesterday raised a poser over how a company from Singapore could be considered to participate in Johor's monorail project without a proven record in such a system.

Johor Baru MP Datuk Shahrir Samad said the republic did not have any track record in building a monorail and it was only justified to award the project to Malaysian companies.

"Why should we allow an outsider to teach us something that we are better at?" he said at an anti-drug campaign at Kampung Melayu Majidee.

"We welcome foreigners to invest in the Iskandar Development Region and other ventures. When locals have the expertise in certain fields, why should we look for foreigners?" he asked.

He also said the monorail project should be owned by locals and not Singaporeans.

Singapore's public transport operator, SMRT Corp, is keen to participate in the Johor Baru Monorail project, which is an integral part of the logistics hub being developed in south Johor.

SMRT, which is 55 per cent owned by Temasek Holdings — the Singapore government's investment arm — has offered to take up equity in the RM3 billion monorail project.

Jalur Mudra Sdn Bhd (JM), the company given the Letter of Exclusivity by the Johor government to build and run the planned monorail system, said that SMRT was also keen to become the technology partner or project manager for the JB Monorail.

Johor Baru City Council (MJB), is the other partner in the project. It will hold 30 per cent equity.

The JB Monorail will be unique in that it will be based on the "maglev", or magnetic levitation technology. This is an advanced technology in which magnetic forces

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*Johor Baru MP  
Datuk Shahrir Samad*

lift, propel and guide the trains over an elevated guideway.

The monorail would initially serve a 13.5km stretch from JB Sentral in the heart of the city to AEON Tebrau City along the Tebrau highway, which has been identified as the most critical passenger logistics corridor.

Another 50km of lines will be added subsequently to serve the Skudai corridor up to the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia campus.