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Big strides in Urban Public Transport

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Eight sets of four-carriage trains now operate the Kelana Jaya line with another 29 expected by the end of this year at the cost of RM1.65bil.

THE Government is investing RM1.65 billion to fulfill the need to improve the services for city dwellers, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced.

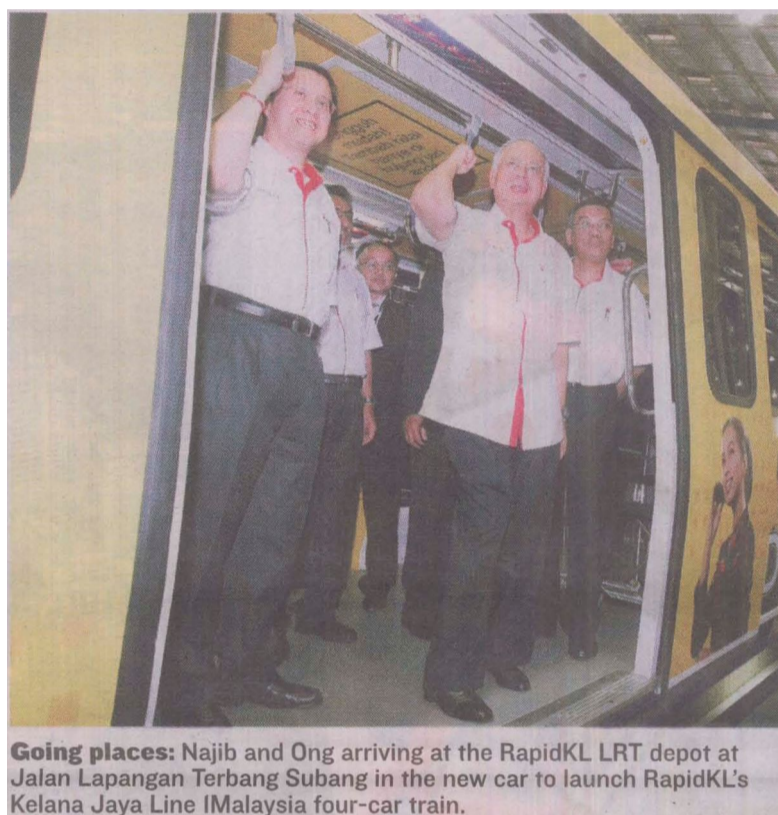
"That is not a small amount of money and I am happy to see that the numerous initiatives to improve the services had shown positive effects," he said at the launching of RapidKL's Kelana Jaya Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1Malaysia four-car train in April.

He said RM1.12 billion was used to purchase 35 four-car trains while the balance was spent on upgrading the tracks and electrical system.

The Government is targeting to increase ridership for public transport services in the Klang Valley from 10 percent (in 2009) to 25 percent by the end of 2012 under the National Key Results Areas (NKRAs) initiatives for Urban Public Transport (UPT).

The first two months of this year saw an increase in ridership for public transport.

According to figures from the Performance Management & Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) in the Prime Minister's Department figures, bus ridership has improved to 130 percent and KTM Komuter load factor has hit 140 percent



Going places: Najib and Ong arriving at the RapidKL LRT depot at Jalan Lapangan Terbang Subang in the new car to launch RapidKL's Kelana Jaya Line 1Malaysia four-car train.

»Waiting time for the trains would also be shortened from 2.8mins to two minutes during peak hours«

DATUK SERI ONG TEE KEAT

in January and February this year.

The LRT services have also already improved its capacity and services with new train sets.

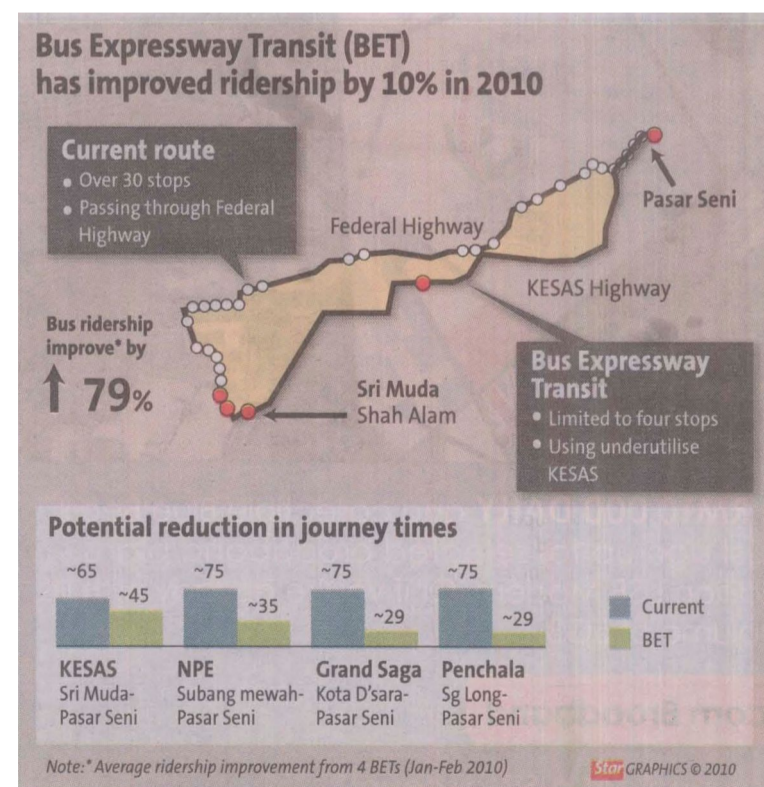
Ten sets of four-carriage trains are already operational on the Kelana Jaya LRT line while another 25 sets are expected to be delivered by the first quarter of 2011.

Ridership on the Kelana Jaya LRT line is expected to more than triple with 97,856 commuters during morning peak hours by end of 2012, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat said.

By October, the waiting time for the trains will also be reduced from 2.8 minutes to two minutes during peak hours, he said.

With the introduction of four-car trains in December last year, the capacity of the Kelana Jaya line at peak hours has increased from 23,611 passengers to 32,185 passengers in December last year, he said.

"With the arrival of more units of the four-car train sets in stages, the ridership of the LRT line is expected to increase further to 59,736 this year



during peak hours between 7am and 9am.

"By the fourth quarter of next year, ridership is to further increase to 62,333 and by the end of 2012, it will be 97,856."

In April, the construction of the Gombak Integrated Transport Terminal (ITT) was revived and expected to be completed and opened to the public early next year, said Ong.

"The ITT aims to disperse 780 north and east-bound buses stationed in the city centre daily and ease the traffic

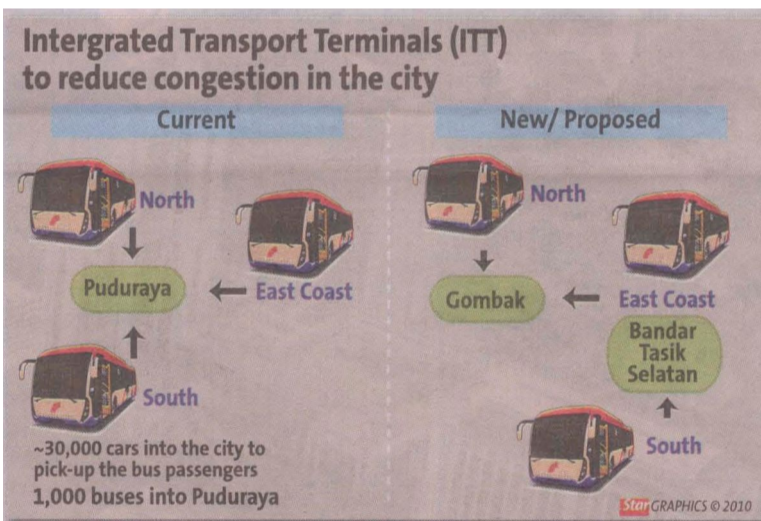
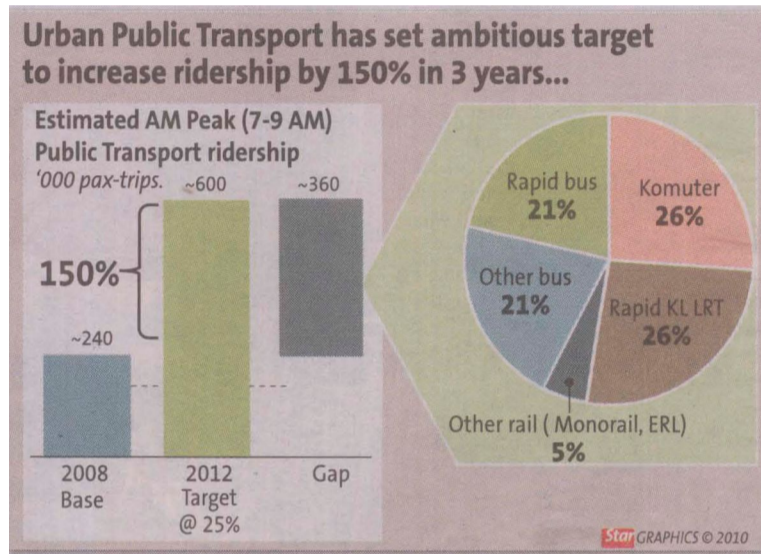
congestion," Ong said.

He said it has been designed to cater for inter-modal needs and have a capacity for 4,000 bus passengers a day.

"It will be disabled-friendly with a turnaround time of 20 minutes," he said, adding that the terminal would be renamed the East Integrated Terminal (Terminal Bersepadu Timur).

Construction of the privately-funded terminal is expected to begin in July.

The RM200 million terminal will be built in two phases on a 13.35ha plot, a stone's throw from the LRT terminal in



Gombak.

According to Head of Delivery Management Office for Urban Public Transport National Key Results Areas (NKRAs) Ruhaizah Rashid, the first phase, which is expected to take nine months to complete, will house the bus platforms.

The second phase will have a double-storey car park and concourse area.

"In the first phase, both arrival and departure terminals will be in the first block. After the second phase is completed, we will separate the arrivals and departures," Ruhaizah added.

An ITT in Bandar Tasik Selatan is also currently under construction and is expected to be completed in July.

According to reports, the RM570 million project undertaken by Maju Holdings Sdn Bhd, will replace Puduraya as Kuala Lumpur's main terminal for southbound buses.

It is located next to the stations of the KLIA Express Rail Link, LRT and KTM Komuter, and will comprise a six-storey main terminal building, 21 bus departure bays, 18 bus arrival bays, 150 parking bays for taxis and 1,372 parking bays for cars.