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PM visits TRX station site

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ON SCHEDULE: We are on track for July 2017 opening, says MRT Corp

KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK Seri Najib Razak yesterday visited the construction site of the Tun Razak Exchange (TRX) Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) station to see the progress of the most modern public transport hub in the country, which is scheduled to be completed in July 2017.

The prime minister arrived at the site, at Jalan Tun Razak here, at 4.40pm yesterday, and was welcomed by MRT Corporation Sdn Bhd chairman Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, who is also chief secretary to the government.

Present were Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan, MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar and Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) chairman Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar.

Immediately after donning a safety helmet, safety jacket and safety boots, Najib was given a briefing on the status of the project by MRT Corp's Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) route project manager Marcus Karakashian, in which he was told that TRX MRT station was 60 per cent complete.

The prime minister was then taken on a walkabout of the site, including up the viewing deck, station platform and commuter tunnels, and was seen nodding his



Datuk Seri Najib Razak speaking to SBK route project manager **Marcus Karakashian** (fourth from right) while visiting the Tun Razak Exchange MRT station site in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Bernama pic

head and smiling several times as he was briefed en route to the locations, before leaving the site at 5.30pm.

This is the third time Najib has visited MRT project sites. He visited the Cochrane MRT station site twice last year.

The TRX MRT station is the biggest of the seven underground MRT stations along the SBK route, which will later be extended to Serdang and Putrajaya (MRT Two Route).

The SBK route, being built under the first phase of the MRT project, covers a distance of 51km, with 31 stations, and can accommodate 1.2 million commuters.

In a statement, MRT Corp Tunnelling project director Satpal S. Bhogal said the underground works were 75 per cent complete, with tunnelling works 95 per cent complete, as of January.

He said tunnelling for the SBK line was expected to be completed by the first week of next month.

Satpal said work was progressing well at all seven MRT underground stations, with 63 per cent completion at Maluri station, followed by 62 per cent completion at Muzium Negara station, Pasar Seni station (61 per cent), Merdeka station (56 per cent), TRX station (58 per cent) and Bukit Bintang station (48 per cent).

"With the achievements to date and the heavy investment in manpower and machinery for tunnelling, we are confident that we will be on time for the opening of

the second phase of the SBK line in July 2017.

"And now, we are able to assemble a full team of experts for tunnelling jobs locally. Our dependence on foreign experts and skilled workers will also be reduced significantly," said Satpal.

"There will be a time in the near future when we will be fully self-sufficient to undertake tunnelling jobs, in line with our vision of reaching high-income nation status." Bernama