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Tun Razak MRT project on track

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Prime Minister briefed on station's progress during visit to construction site

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak visited the construction site of the Tun Razak Exchange (TRX) Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) station to inspect the progress of the most modern public transport hub in the country, which is scheduled for completion 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 the Chief Secretary to the Government, *Bemama* reported.

Immediately after donning a safety helmet, jacket and boots, Najib was given a briefng on the status of the project and was told that it was almost 60% completed.

Najib was then taken on a walkabout at the site including up the viewing deck, station platform and commuter tunnels and was seen nodding and smiling several times as he was briefed.

The TRX MRT station is the biggest among the seven underground MRT stations along the Sungai Buloh-Kajang (SBK) route which will later be extended to Serdang and Putrajaya (MRTtwo Route).

The SBK Route, which is being built under the first phase of the MRT Project, covers a distance of 51 km with 31 stations and can accommo-

date 1.2 million commuters.

MRT Corp Tunnelling Project Director Satpal S. Bhogal said in a statement that the overall completion of the underground work was at 75% with tunnelling work completed at 95% as of January.

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

In a foreword written for the International Conference and Exhibition on Tunnelling and Underground Space here yesterday, Najib said advances in underground space technology have helped enhance transportation facilities, thus providing new links between cities while reducing congestion and travel time.

The two-day exhibition and conference, which ends today, is organised by the Tunnelling & Underground Space Technical Division of the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia.



Status update: Najib (fourth from right) being briefed by MRT Corp's project director Marcus Karakashian during his visit to the TRX MRT construction site. Also present were Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) chairman Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar (next to Karakashian), Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan (on Najib's left) and MRT Corp's chief executive officer Datuk Seri Shahril Mokhtar (second from right). - Bernama