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MRT SBK Line built below RM23b budget, says Najib

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Prime minister says the project costs only RM21b and was completed in time

by R KAMALAVACINI

THE Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) connecting Sungai Buloh to Kajang (SBK) has been completed at RM2 billion below the initial budget estimate, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak.

"At the beginning of this project, when we did the strategic planning, we set the estimated cost for the MRT Line 1 to touch about RM23 billion.

"However, after all the contracts have been awarded and work on the entire line is nearing completion, I'm delighted to announce that it costs only RM21 billion to build this mega project," Najib said at the launch of Phase 1 of MRT SBK line at the Kwasa Damansara station yesterday.

The prime minister also voiced out his delight that the project was completed in time.



The prime minister (left) taking the MRT from the Kwasa Damansara station to the Sungai Buloh station, accompanied by Transport Minister Liow

"So, it is on time and below budget," he crowed.

Najib also announced a one-month free service for MRT and feeder buses services for the line, starting today until

Jan 16, 2017, as a new year's gift to the public.

From Jan 17, 2017 onwards, users will be charged a fare between RM1 and RM3.90.

Phase 1 of the MRT SBK Line

is 21km long, connecting 12 stations from Sungai Buloh to Semantan.

Phase 2 from Semantan to Kajang, which will also include the underground sec-

tion in downtown Kuala Lumpur, will be operational by July next year.

The whole stretch of the SBK Line covers a distance of 51km with 31 stations.

Najib said the ambitious MRT project has now become a reality with the cooperation from various ministries, agencies and corporations including contractors.

He also noted that the historical launch marks a new era of modern public transportation services in the country.

Najib added that the paradigm shift in public transportation will not only tackle future potential traffic congestion issues, but uplift the social and economical landscape of the nation.

Also present at the event were Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, Second Finance Minister Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani, Land Public Transport Commission chairman Tan Sri Dr Syed Hamid Albar and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, who is also MRT Corp Sdn Bhd chairman.

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