

Newspaper	THE SUN
Date	20 JULY 2016

A rail-ity by 2026

> M'sia, S'pore sign MoU on mega high-speed train project

BY **HAIKAL JALIL**

newsdesk@thesundaily.com

The Sun - 20/7/2016

PUTRAJAYA: The High-Speed Rail (HSR) mega project connecting Malaysia and Singapore is expected to be fully operational by 2026.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said an agreement between the governments of Malaysia and Singapore would be signed by the end of this year, and would contain more details on the project.

Once signed, the project team would work on preparing the tender, expected out next year.

"This HSR project is a reflection of the future of Malaysia and Singapore ... imagine a 90-minute train ride will get you to Singapore and vice-versa.

"One could have breakfast in Kuala Lumpur, lunch in Singapore and be back in time for dinner in Kuala Lumpur. This is the shape of things to come.

"If you ask how it is going to impact our economy, the short answer is: it will be a game-changer," Najib told a joint press conference with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong after witnessing the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two governments at Seri Perdana here.

The MoU was signed by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan and Singapore's Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan.

The HSR would connect Kuala Lumpur and Singapore in 90 minutes through its roughly 350-kilometre line, cutting through Negri Sembilan, Malacca and Johor.

Najib said the construction of the HSR would increase economic growth in the affected areas, adding that almost 30,000 jobs would be created through the project.

"This project will bring about tremendous change, not only in the Klang Valley, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, but also the towns in between. As to the total cost, Najib said it would be too early for them to mention any figure.

Meanwhile, Lee said there would be potential bumps to meet the 10-year dateline, but added that both governments would be working very closely to ensure the success of the project.

He said the project, once completed, would open up more opportunities for both the business and tourism sectors.