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# 'New wave of development'

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**PUBLIC TRANSPORT:** New 600km rail link to realise socio-economic potential of east coast states, says PM

## KUALA LUMPUR

**D**ATUK Seri Najib Razak yesterday unveiled a series of new initiatives to modernise the country's public transportation to help the economy and improve connectivity for the people.

Topping the list was the new 600km rail line from here to Tumpat, Kelantan, to allow faster land connectivity to the east coast states, the prime minister said.

Launching the five-year land public transport transformation report card, Najib said the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) had been identified as a

high-impact project.

"ECRL will bring a new wave of development to realise the socio-economic potential of the east coast. It will be the backbone transport infrastructure for the ECER (East Coast Economic Region)."

Najib has made the transformation of buses, taxis and rail services one of the hallmarks of his reform agenda when he took office in 2009.

The land public transportation agenda is being spearheaded by the Land Public Transport Commission, which published the 110-page report card on the progress of the sector.

Under Najib's watch, the government has developed the Mass Rapid Transit lines, expanded the Light Rail Transit network and improved bus and taxi services. It has also proposed a high-speed rail to Singapore.

The ECRL will be over and above the existing KTM Komuter line from Gemas to Tumpat. The new line will link Kuala Lumpur to Tumpat via Kuantan, Kuala Terengganu and Kota Baru.

It will take six hours via the new rail link, which will use fast trains on standard gauge, compared with 12 hours via the existing KTMB services.

In his speech, Najib outlined other existing and new initiatives to transform land public transport. They are:

**THE** extensions of the Ampang and the Kelana Jaya LRT lines, which would enable the service to accommodate 300,000 commuters daily;

**THE** MRT Line 1 (Sungai Buloh-Kajang) will start operations in two phases, namely the Sungai Buloh-Semantan line (Phase One, by the end of this year) and Semantan-Kajang line (Phase Two, by July). It will benefit 1.2 million residents along the stops. The 51km route has 31 stations;

**MRT** Line 2 (Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya) will cover 52.2km, with 37 stations;

**THE** proposed MRT 3 Circle Line, which would boost connectivity in the city centre, covering areas such as Tun Razak Exchange, Kampung Baru and Mont Kiara;

**LRT3**, which will connect Bandar Utama, Damansara, Johan Setia and Klang, and benefit two million residents along route;

**THE** Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail will link the two cities in just 90 minutes;