

A MONTH OF FREE RAPIDKL, KOMUTER RIDES

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RM155m initiative to encourage public transport use, says prime minister

ADIB POVERA
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

PUBLIC transportation services run by RapidKL and Komuter services in the Klang Valley are free for a month from yesterday.

The RapidKL services include Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), Light Rail Transit, Bus Rapid Transit, monorail and buses.

For the Komuter service, the free rides involve the Tanjung Malim-Port Klang and Batu Caves-Pulau Sebang routes.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob made the announcement when he officiated at the first phase of the Putrajaya MRT line yesterday.

He said the government had set aside RM140 million for RapidKL rides and RM15 million for Komuter rides.

He said the initiative was to encourage more people to use public transportation, not only to commute, but also for leisure during weekends and public holidays.

"When more people use public transport, this will reduce traffic woes."

Present were Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong, Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed and Fed-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob (front row, third from left) taking a ride on the Mass Rapid Transit at the launch of the Putrajaya MRT line in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are (front row, from left) Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong and Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz. PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

eral Territories Minister Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

Also present were Prasarana group president and chief executive officer Mohd Azharuddin Mat Sah and MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Zarif Hashim.

Ismail Sabri said the government would look into the possibility of extending the period for free rides.

"Previously, the government introduced initiatives like the RM150 subsidy for students, se-

nior citizens and the disabled (to use public transportation)."

Earlier, he said he hoped the commencement of the Putrajaya MRT line would create spillover effects for development in areas along the route, such as Bandar Sri Damansara, Jinjang, Kepong and Sungai Buloh.

"Businesses will benefit from this line, allowing them to grow their sales and reach more customers as they are more connected to other areas now."

Phase One of the Putrajaya MRT

line covers a 17.5km route involving 12 stations between Kwasa Damansara and Kampung Batu.

Nine of the stations are new — Damansara Damai, Sri Damansara Barat, Sri Damansara Sentral, Sri Damansara Timur, Metro Prima, Kepong Baru, Jinjang, Sri Delima and Kampung Batu.

Kwasa Damansara, Kampung Selamat and Sungai Buloh are also part of the Kajang MRT line.

The new line will be served by 20 train sets.

Each train set has four cars and

can ferry 1,200 passengers. The trains are fully automated and driverless.

Ismail Sabri said Phase Two, which will be 57.7km long, was expected to begin operations in the first quarter of next year.

"Phase Two will service two million people commuting between Kwasa Damansara and Putrajaya."

Page 1 pic: An aerial view of the Serdang Raya Selatan MRT station in Selangor.