

NEW MRT LINE TO BENEFIT 100,000 TRAVELLERS DAILY

Anwar also announces that users can enjoy the service for free until March 31

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THE second phase of the Putrajaya Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line, which began operating yesterday, will benefit more than 100,000 passengers daily during its first year of operations.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who took a ride on the train after launching the Phase Two of the project, also announced that passengers would enjoy the Putrajaya Line rail service for free until March 31.

“Due to the success of MRT Corp (Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd) and the implementation of this MRT, I have agreed that starting at 3pm today (yesterday), there will be no charge for those who use the MRT Putrajaya Line until March 31,” he said in his speech at the launch of the MRT Putrajaya Line at MRT Serdang Depot.

Also present were Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, Local Government Development Minister Nga Kor Ming, Deputy Finance Minister 2 Steven Sim Chee Keong,

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, and MRT Corp chief executive officer Datuk Mohd Zarif Hashim.

A statement from Prasarana subsidiary Rapid Rail Sdn Bhd said the entire Putrajaya MRT Line would open up a new rail of network between Putrajaya and Kwasa Damansara.

“This line, which will connect the federal government’s administrative centre with areas around the Klang Valley, is expected to record more than 100,000 passengers daily in its first year.

“The journey between Putrajaya Sentral and Kwasa Damansara will take 84 minutes, with a frequency of five minutes during peak hours, and 10 minutes outside of peak hours.

“This network of public transport will help to improve current congestion issues, and add value to the economy of locals while steering us towards the 40 per cent public transport usage target by 2030,” it said.

Phase two of the MRT Putrajaya Line comprises 24 stations in total, with 15 elevated stations and nine underground stations, spanning 40.2km from Kampung Batu to Putrajaya Sentral.

The 24 stations are Kampung Batu, Kentonmen, Jalan Ipoh, Sentul Barat, Titiwangsa, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Raja Uda, Ampang Park, Persiaran KLCC, Conlay, Tun Razak Exchange, Chan Sow Lin, Bandar Malaysia Utara, Bandar Malaysia Selatan, Kuchai, Taman Naga Emas, Sungai Besi, Serdang Raya Utara, Serdang Raya Selatan, Serdang Jaya, UPM, Taman Equine, Putra Per-

mai, 16 Sierra, Cyberjaya Utara, Cyberjaya City Centre, and Putrajaya Sentral.

Phase one, comprising 12 stations and covers 17.5km, was launched last year on June 16.

The entire Putrajaya Line will span 57.7 km with 36 stations from Kwasa Damansara to Putrajaya. The line also has interchange station services to connect to the Kelana Jaya light rail transit, Kajang MRT and KL Monorail.

The Putrajaya Line is served by 49 train sets, with each train set consisting of four cars, and a maximum capacity of 1,200 passengers.

There are also 6,416 parking bays available at 17 stations along the alignment for passengers taking the MRT.

Meanwhile, when asked about his MRT ride to Putrajaya Sentral station, Anwar said: “*Alhamdulillah*, it’s good... and let the people use it for free until March 31. I also asked about maintenance, surveillance and cleanliness just now.

“Everything is under control, and I hope the people will cooperate while using the service. The Transport Ministry is currently developing a strategy so that public transport becomes the main form of transportation that makes it easier for the people,” he said.

Page 1 pic: Commuters queueing up to enjoy the free rides on the MRT Putrajaya Line at the MRT Serdang Depot in Serdang yesterday.