

# PM gives thumbs up to revamped KLIA aerotrain

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➤ Full operations resumed after an RM456m overhaul, part of efforts to make airport a premier regional hub

**SEPANG:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim took a ride on the newly upgraded KL International Airport (KLIA) Aerotrain during a walkabout at Terminal 1 of KLIA yesterday.

Describing the ride, he said it was “good... faster than before”.

He was accompanied by Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) managing director Datuk Mohd Izani Ghani and senior MAHB officials.

Anwar travelled from the contact pier to the satellite building aboard the fully modernised, driverless train, and was later briefed on the system’s upgrades under MAHB’s Airport Regeneration Plan.

The aerotrain resumed full operations yesterday morning after an RM456 million overhaul, part of a larger RM742 million initiative to future-proof KLIA as a premier

regional hub.

Now powered by Alstom Innovia APM 300R train sets, each three-car unit can carry up to 270 passengers and reach speeds of 56kph, cutting travel time between the main and satellite terminals to under three minutes.

The new system features advanced condition-monitoring technology aimed at reducing breakdowns, improving operational efficiency and enhancing passenger comfort.

Mohd Izani said the upgraded aerotrain underwent six months of rigorous technical and safety testing by the Land Public Transport Agency from January to June 2025 before being cleared for service, Bernama reported.

KLIA Terminal 1 currently sees over 100,000 passenger movements daily, with the aerotrain serving as a critical link, especially for international transit passengers

connecting through the satellite terminal which hosts most of the airport’s long-haul carriers.

A KLIA icon since 1998, the aerotrain had come under fire in recent years due to frequent breakdowns, particularly a highly publicised failure in March 2023 that left passengers stranded and forced MAHB to deploy shuttle buses.

The incident sparked public outcry, a formal apology from MAHB and intervention by the Transport Ministry.

Loke subsequently ordered an urgent upgrade of the ageing system and demanded better service standards.

In response, MAHB suspended the aerotrain in early 2023 and fast-tracked the procurement and installation of the new Alstom units, delivering on its commitment to restore reliable rail service within two years.

With operations now fully restored, MAHB said the revamped aerotrain would bolster KLIA’s readiness for rising passenger volumes ahead of Visit Malaysia Year 2026, and support the airport’s full recovery to pre-pandemic levels.