

MRT Construction Likely To Start In January Next Year
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- The construction of the multi-billion ringgit MY Rapid Transit (MRT), is likely to begin by January next year and completed in 2016, Abdul Malik Azman, head of Prasarana's MRT Procurement Management Department said today.

"The first tender for the V5 and V6 packages will be awarded in January or February next year. Based on our plan, by the end of next year, all 18 works packages will be awarded accordingly," he said.

The V5 package stretches from Taman Bukit Ria to Plaza Phoenix in Cheras and comprising four station. The V6 runs from Plaza Phoenix to Bandar Tun Hussein Onn with three stations.

Abdul Malik was speaking to reporters after holding the first MRT pre-tender briefing for contractors here.

He said Prasarana will announce its shortlist of contractors for underground tunnels by early next month.

"We are still in the midst of finalising the pre-qualification of bidders," he added. Prasarana has received 15 submission so far.

The underground section starts from Semantan to Maluri.

Asked as to the criteria for contractors to win MRT jobs, Abdul Malik said they must demonstrate the ability to undertake it based on Prasarana's requirement.

"We will check their equipment and financial capabilities. We also have our own cost estimation. If contractors offer the cheapest but unrealistic price, we will not take it," he added.

Prasarana has shortlisted 28 individual and joint venture (JV) companies that are eligible to bid for the project.

At the event, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Deputy Chief Commissioner Datuk Sutinah Sutan reminded contractors to use an internationally recognised practice to ensure transparency in the project implementation.

She said the commission and the Auditor-General would oversee the Integrity Pact (IP) used for the MRT project to ensure proper governance practices.

The IP was inked between the Land Public Transport Commission and the MRT project partner, MMC-Gamuda in July.

The MRT was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak during the tabling of the 10th Malaysia Plan in June last year.

The project is expected to not only increase the current inadequate rail network but also alleviate the severe traffic congestion in the Greater KL metropolitan area.

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