

Najib Launches BRT-Sunway Line
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PETALING JAYA, June 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak Saturday launched the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)-Sunway Line project which will provide transportation convenience for 500,000 residents around Bandar Sunway and Subang.

With an estimated cost of RM300 million, the project will be implemented under a public-private partnership between government-owned Syarikat Prasarana Negara Bhd (Prasarana) and private company Sunway Bhd and is expected to be completed by 2014.

In his opening speech, Najib said the project was in line with the government's aspiration to improve the public transportation system under the National Key Results Area (NKRA), especially in major cities that needed an efficient and reliable transportation system.

"We have to make this transformation because we need a transportation system that can meet the demand of a modern city.

"Prior to this, we have introduced the LRT. Many skeptics say that it will not work, but now, the LRT can cater up to 450,000 passengers on daily basis, with a peak hour average of almost 85,000 passengers," he said.

The prime minister also said that the government had introduced the four-car trains in December 2009 to meet the soaring demand of the public, and currently, the trains were packed to their capacity at every peak hour.

"This shows that without LRT and the monorail, God knows how bad the traffic situation that we have to deal with in the Klang Valley," he said.

Najib said the current public transport modal share was very low, that is at about 17 percent, and the government had targeted that the share would go up to 40 percent by 2020.

"We must do everything we can so that people living in the Klang Valley will enjoy a better quality of life," he said.

Najib said Prasarana, via its subsidiaries and divisions, was currently managing three lines, namely the Ampang Line, Kelana Jaya Line and Kuala Lumpur Monorail, to ferry Malaysians from one destination to another within the Klang Valley.

Najib said those lines would be joining in the form of BRT.

He said it was great that this new project was being implemented under a private-public partnership, which is an initiative encouraged by the government, as it combined the strength of the public and private sectors to carry out nation building efforts.

"This is a concept that I would like to encourage and propagate because I believe by working closely together, it will bring mutual benefit for both the private company and the government," he said.

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