

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarawak Metro enhancing efforts to reduce impact of construction activities

KUCHING: As the construction activities for the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project gains greater momentum, Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd continues to focus on ensuring that its infrastructure contractors take the necessary steps to minimise their impact on nearby communities.

However, due to the scope of this project, which covers some of the most densely populated areas in Kuching and Kota Samarahan, Sarawak Metro acknowledges that there will always be room for improvement in terms of ensuring that the KUTS Project is implemented as smoothly as possible.

One recent example of this was highlighted in the media recently, which was based on feedback from a resident living near one of the construction sites along the Blue Line alignment of the KUTS Project.

In fact, just last week, Sarawak Metro and its infrastructure contractor had also met with residents in the area, including the resident in question, and were currently in the midst of implementing some of the impact mitigation efforts.

Following up from last week's engagement session, today, representatives from Sarawak Metro and its infrastructure contractor also visited the construction site, as it continues to monitor the current situation and further engage with some of the residents.

On one particular issue, which was highlighted by the media recently, regarding a "request to use electricity from a resident's home to support construction activities", Sarawak Metro clarifies that one of the sub-contractors for the Blue Line Package 2 infrastructure contractor did make an offer to one of the residents in the area to tap power for one day from the home of the resident in question, as the sub-contractor's generator set had yet to arrive at the construction site.

However, as the offer was rejected, and the generator set subsequently arrived on site, the sub-contractor considered the matter closed.

Sarawak Metro is grateful for the public feedback received directly from the public as well as from the relevant government agencies and local authorities as it strives to develop a modern green public transport system for the future convenience of all in Greater Kuching.

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Photo and caption:



An engagement session on 23 July with some of the residents near one of the construction sites along the Blue Line alignment

About Sarawak Metro and KUTS project:

Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro), a wholly owned subsidiary of Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), has been entrusted by the Sarawak Government to modernise public transport through the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project.

Sarawak Metro is the implementer, operator and maintainer of the KUTS project.

The project is being developed in phases, and Phase 1 includes the development of three lines: the Blue Line from Rembus in Kota Samarahan to Hikmah Exchange in the city centre; the Red Line, from Kuching Sentral to Pending; and the Green Line, from Pending to Damai.

The backbone of the KUTS project is the introduction of the zero-emission Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) hydrogen vehicles.

The ART vehicles will be operated on dedicated lanes, meaning they will not share the lane with other road users. The ART hydrogen vehicles will run on rubber tires, and hence the dedicated lanes will be trackless. The lanes will mostly be at-grade (road level) while certain sections of the alignment will be elevated.

The ART operation will be supported by a network of feeder buses, which will also consist of hydrogen-powered vehicles to offer the 'first mile and last mile' connectivity for commuters.

The move to use hydrogen is in line with the Sarawak Government's aspirations to advance the hydrogen economy and to decarbonise public transport in Sarawak.

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