



SARAWAK METRO SDN BHD (201801007738)
A Member of the SEDC Group of Companies

SF205, SF210-212, Second Floor,
Riverside Shopping Complex,
Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman,
93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

Tel: (082) 524 222
Fax: (082) 524 224
E-mail: info@mysarawakmetro.com
Website: www.mysarawakmetro.com

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

23 September 2025

Sarawak Metro working closely with contractor to repair damaged water pipe at Jalan Canna

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd is working closely with its Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project's Blue Line Package 2 contractor – Perbena Emas Sdn Bhd and CRBC (M) Holdings Sdn Bhd joint venture – to ensure that repair works on a damaged underground water pipe along Jalan Canna here are completed swiftly.

As highlighted by Sarawak Water Sdn Bhd, an underground 600mm ductile iron pipe was accidentally damaged due to the KUTS Project's construction activities for Blue Line Package 2, on Monday afternoon.

Sarawak Metro sincerely apologises to all the affected communities for the inconvenience caused by the water supply disruptions.

According to Sarawak Metro, although all precautions had been taken to avoid these types of incidents, it acknowledged that accidents could always happen, especially in cases where some of the utilities were uncharted.

And as the construction phase for the KUTS Project gains greater momentum, one of Sarawak Metro's main areas of focus now was on minimising disruptions to utility services.

This is currently one of the biggest challenges for the KUTS Project, especially with the amount of utilities relocation works involved along the 70km alignment for the first phase of the project.

Sarawak Metro also continuously reviews its operational protocols towards improving the coordination between contractors, enhancing on-site supervision and preventing a recurrence of similar incidents moving forward.

This is in addition to the continuous engagement with the relevant utility providers as well as with their respective contractors, especially before any excavation activities are done near charted underground pipes and cables.

As such, Sarawak Metro greatly appreciates the close cooperation given by all the relevant government agencies and utility providers in ensuring the KUTS Project is implemented as smoothly as possible.

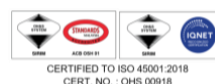
For media enquiries, please contact the Sarawak Metro Corporate Communication team :

Letitia Samuel, Media Senior Manager

+6(016) 800 4516

letitia.samuel@mysarawakmetro.com

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Sarawak Metro is also grateful for the support and understanding from the public, in its efforts to develop the future green public transport system for Greater Kuching.

Ends

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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