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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Sarawak Metro secures private frequency spectrum for KUTS Project**

**KUCHING:** Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro) was recently awarded a private frequency spectrum from Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) for the communications system of the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS).

This milestone makes Sarawak Metro the first organisation in Malaysia’s railway and public transportation industry to obtain a dedicated private frequency spectrum to operate its wireless communication system—an essential component for the operations of the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) system.

The spectrum awarded is the Future Railway Mobile Communication System (FRMCS) – the next-generation global standard for railway wireless communication that promises enhanced digital rail services, increased safety, and high-capacity data transmission.

Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustaffa highlighted the importance of adopting future-ready technologies, particularly with regard to the evolution of FRMCS in the future.

“We are now closer towards implementing a highly reliable and efficient communications system for the KUTS project, and with FRMCS available for our ART system, we will also be able to ensure the system remains aligned with MCMC’s regulatory direction as well as future spectrum planning and allocation,” said Mazli, in a statement.

Sarawak Metro successfully completed live trials of its Radio Telecommunication System (RTS), which is based on FRMCS architecture, in October 2024.

Meanwhile, during a recent courtesy visit to MCMC’s headquarters in Cyberjaya Mazli expressed his appreciation to the Commission for its support in advancing the digitalisation efforts in Sarawak’s public transport sector in.

“Moving forward, we look forward to continuous engagements and strengthening collaborations with all industry stakeholders, especially with MCMC.

“This will be key to ensuring alignment, knowledge sharing, and the sustainable development of the ecosystem.”

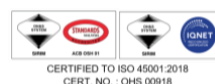
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During the visit, Mazli was welcomed by MCMC Chief Regulatory Officer, Ts. Dr. Ahmad Nasruddin 'Atiqullah Fakrullah, and MCMC officials to express appreciation for the approval and allocation of the bandwidth.

**Ends**

Photos and captions:



Mazli (right) presenting a memento to MCMC Chief Regulatory Officer, Ts. Dr. Ahmad Nasruddin 'Atiqullah Fakrullah during the courtesy visit



Mazli (centre) in a group photo with MCMC Chief Regulatory Officer, Ts. Dr. Ahmad Nasruddin 'Atiqullah Fakrullah (7<sup>th</sup> left) during the courtesy visit

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**About Sarawak Metro and KUTS project:**

Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro), a State-owned enterprise, 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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