

Press Release

For Immediate Release

26 September 2025

Minimising disruptions to public utility services still a major focus of KUTS Project

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd will continue to focus on minimising any disruption to public utility services, throughout the construction phase of the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project.

This involves every aspect of the construction works throughout the KUTS alignment, especially when it concerns public utilities such as infrastructure for water, electricity and telecommunications.

As such, in the recent incident where a 600mm ductile iron pipe at Jalan Canna was accidentally damaged by the KUTS Project's Blue Line Package 2 contractor – Perbena Emas Sdn Bhd and CRBC (M) Holdings Sdn Bhd joint venture (PESB-CRM JV) – Sarawak Metro also reiterates that 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.

PESB-CRM JV had also explained in detail in its press statement recently that it accidentally struck the water pipe in question, which was located approximately four meters below ground, during piling works.

This depth is significantly deeper than the standard one-meter cover that is typically required for utility pipelines, which made this particular pipe undetectable by standard scanning methods; despite thorough preparation, including underground detection mapping, joint inspections with Sarawak Water Sdn Bhd, and pilot trenching prior to works.

PESB-CRM JV highlighted that the actual alignment and depth of the pipe differed from available records, resulting in an unforeseen clash beyond the contractor's control.

Sarawak Metro and its contractors also reiterate that they are fully committed in continuing to engage with the relevant utility providers, especially before any excavation activities are done near charted underground pipes and cables.

Meanwhile, Sarawak Metro takes seriously the allegations made by a Member of Parliament in a police report he lodged here, yesterday regarding the implementation of the KUTS Project.

Sarawak Metro is grateful for the support and understanding from the public, especially these past few days, as it strives to develop the future green public transport system for Greater Kuching.

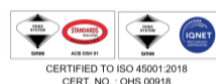
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Sarawak Metro also greatly appreciates the close cooperation given by all the relevant government agencies and utility providers in ensuring the KUTS Project is implemented as smoothly as possible.

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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