



PRESS STATEMENT

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First phase of KUTS Project officially launched

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro) today achieved a new milestone with the official launch of Phase 1 of the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project.

The Premier of Sarawak, The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg was on hand to launch the KUTS Project – Phase 1, which coincided with the commencement of civil works for the project.

The launch was held in Kota Samarahan, at the proposed site for Sarawak Metro's ART depot (Rembus Depot) for the Blue Line – one of the three lines to be constructed under Phase 1 of the KUTS project.

The Rembus Depot will be built on an 80-acre site, which will also house the depot for the KUTS Project's hydrogen feeder buses as well as SEDC Energy Sdn Bhd's hydrogen production plant.

Other facilities to be built at the Rembus Depot include an administration & operation control station building, stabling yard, hydrogen refuelling facilities, mechanical workshop, infrastructure workshop as well as test track facility.

The Rembus Depot is scheduled to begin operation in the fourth quarter of 2025, coinciding with the opening of Stage 1 of the ART passenger service for the Blue Line.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), Sarawak Metro has been entrusted by the Sarawak Government to implement the KUTS Project, which aims to minimise and alleviate traffic congestion in Greater Kuching.

The KUTS Project focuses on an integrated public transportation system for efficiency and tapping on the latest technology, Sarawak Metro will introduce the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART), which is powered by hydrogen fuel cells.

The system will be supported by the feeder bus network to provide the first-mile and last-mile connectivity for KUTS. Just like the ART, the feeder buses will also be powered by hydrogen fuel cells.

The use of hydrogen fuel cells to power the ART is in line with the Government's move to advance the hydrogen economy as well as efforts to decarbonise public transport in Sarawak.

Phase 1 of the KUTS Project involves the design, construction and commissioning of the ART's approximately 69.9km route, which consists of three urban lines, namely the Blue Line, Red Line and Green Line.

The Blue Line is from Rembus in Kota Samarahan to Hikmah Exchange in the city centre, covering a distance of 27.6km, while the Red Line is from Kuching Sentral to Pending, covering a distance of 12.3km.

The Green Line is from Pending to Damai Central in Santubong, covering a distance of 30km.

The passenger service for the ART is scheduled to be introduced in stages, starting from the fourth quarter of 2025.

The first hydrogen-powered ART vehicle will arrive in Kuching in the third quarter of 2023, for Sarawak Metro's proof-of-concept exercise for the vehicle, which is scheduled to be held in July 2023.

At the launch, the Premier also unveiled the logo for the KUTS Project, which was designed by Dr Atta Idrawani from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

The logo was picked from numerous submissions received during the KUTS logo design competition organised by Sarawak Metro earlier this year.

At the same event, the Premier also presented compensation cheques to landowners affected by the development of Rembus Depot.

Sarawak Metro also held the exchange of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) documents at the launching ceremony.

The exchange of the MoU documents was between Sarawak Metro with Universiti Teknikal Mara Sdn Bhd (UniKL), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Centre for Technology Excellence Sarawak Sdn Bhd (CENTEXS).

These MoUs are for collaborations under Sarawak Metro's Socio-Economic Enhancement Development (SEED) Programme.

The SEED Programme aims to add value to the procurement activities for the KUTS Project and MoUs under the programme aims to provide a platform for research and development and knowledge sharing particularly in creating a pool of skilled manpower for the transportation industry.

Among those present at the event were YAB Dato Sri Haji Fadillah bin Yusof, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and Minister for Plantation and Commodities, who is also the Member of Parliament for Petra Jaya; YB Dato Sri Professor Dr Sim Kui Hian, Deputy Premier of Sarawak and Minister for Public Health, Housing and Local Government; YB Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin, Minister for Transport Sarawak; YB Datuk Hajah Rubiah Bt Haji Wang, Deputy Minister for Rural and Regional Development Malaysia; YB Ir. Aidel Lariwoo, Deputy Minister for Infrastructure and Port Development (Infrastructure Development) Sarawak; YB Fazzruddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Chief Political Secretary to the Premier of Sarawak; His Excellency Mr. Xing Wei Ping, Consul General of People's Republic of China in Kuching; His Excellency Raden Sigit Witjaksono, Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Kuching; Her Excellency Puan Noni Zurainah Haji Ismi, Consul General of Brunei Darussalam in Kuching; YBhg. Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Abdul Aziz Bin Dato Haji Hussain, Chairman of Sarawak Economic Development Corporation & Chairman of Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd; YBhg. Dato Wee Hong Seng, Mayor of Kuching City South Council (MBKS); YBhg. Dato' Peter Minos, Chairman of Samarahan Municipal Council (MPKS); and YBrs. Ir. Mazli Bin Mustaffa.

End.

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