

For Immediate Release

Press Release

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Sarawak Metro stands by its procurement processes and procedures

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd stands firmly by its procurement processes and its procedures and as such denies the recent allegations made by an assemblywoman with regard to the company's integrity and good governance.

Sarawak Metro chief executive officer, Ts. Mazli Mustaffa explained that these allegations were addressed in detail by Minister for Transport Sarawak, the Honourable Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin, during the Minister's winding-up speech at the State Legislative Assembly, on Monday.

"Throughout our Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project, we have always maintained the highest levels of integrity, and that includes strict adherence to the processes and procedures related to KUTS Project procurement activities.

"We are also continuously enhancing the standards of governance. That is why it is disappointing to hear allegations that have sought to diminish all our efforts towards creating a culture of integrity and good governance in our organisation," said Mazli.

He added the allegations also tarnished the image of Sarawak Metro not only within Sarawak, but also beyond.

"These past five years, Sarawak Metro has worked hard to establish a reputation for professionalism and innovation not only in Sarawak but throughout the country and even internationally.

"These efforts were aimed to develop Sarawak Metro's business, which we hope will go a long way towards improving the public transport industry and enhancing the socio-economic development in Sarawak."

He pointed out that Sarawak Metro was also currently in the process of attaining the Anti Bribery Management System (ABMS) ISO 37001:2016 certification as one of its latest initiatives and commitment in upholding the best governance practises whilst employing the highest ethical standards, and just recently completed the Stage 2 Certification Audit for its ABMS.

He added that apart from ensuring that all contracts are awarded fairly and with proper due diligence and competence, Sarawak Metro aims to ensure that its tender exercises are as competitive as possible.

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“Apart from ensuring the highest levels of governance, our procurement process also emphasises on the importance of competitiveness, which is why we have open tenders and also why we open them up to international tenderers.

“Open tenders and international tenders provide us with more options to not only choose from the lowest bids, but also to evaluate from among many companies who may be able to offer even more added value with their products and services.”

Mazli explained that although the proper procurement processes and procedures have already been put in place, there will always be room for improvement to strengthen the company’s processes.

As such, he welcomed the efforts of the relevant government authorities and agencies in conducting audits on the current processes, towards enhancing Sarawak Metro’s standards and level of governance in line with its zero tolerance policy against any form of corruption.

Ends

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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 has been entrusted to implement, operate and maintain 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.

Construction of the first package for the Blue Line is expected to complete by the fourth quarter of 2025 and all three lines are scheduled to be fully completed by the end of 2027.

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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