

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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First batch of ART vehicles ready for delivery after completing tests

KUCHING: The first two units of the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) vehicles have successfully completed the required tests in China and now ready for delivery to Kuching, marking another milestone for the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project.

These first two units of ART vehicles, referred to as the “golden trains”, are expected to arrive in Kuching within the second quarter of this year.

Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustafa, together with Sarawak Metro’s technical team were recently in the Chinese city of Yibin, to conduct final inspections of the ART vehicles at the manufacturer’s facility.

The aim of his visit was to verify overall readiness, workmanship quality, and compliance with project specifications prior to shipment.

"We are excited to welcome the ‘golden trains’ to Kuching soon and we all look forward to commencing pilot operations later this year, bringing us closer to delivering a modern, efficient, and environmentally friendly public transportation system for the people of Sarawak," said Mazli.

“Sarawak Metro remains committed to delivering the KUTS project safely, efficiently, and sustainably, and we greatly appreciate the continued support and cooperation of the public as this project progresses,” he added.

Meanwhile, the vehicles will undergo gangway reassembly works at the Kuching ART Assembly Facility (KAAF), upon arrival in Sarawak.

Another set of tests will be conducted on the vehicles once they arrive at the ART depot in Rembus, Kota Samarahan, to ensure full operational readiness ahead of the pilot operations scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of this year.

Among those present during Mazli’s visit to the ART manufacturing facility in Yibin were Hunan CRRC Intelligent Transport Technology Co. Ltd General Manager, Peng Zhonghong and EPR Mobilus GR JV Sdn Bhd Director, Chan Chee Kian.

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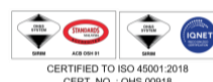
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Photos and captions:



Mazli (7th right), together with Peng (6th right) and Chan (8th right) witnessing the rollout of the first two ART vehicle units from the factory



The first two units of ART vehicles that will soon be shipped to Kuching

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Mazli (centre) with Peng (right) and Chan



Mazli (centre) being briefed during a ride in the ART vehicle on CRRC's test track



Mazli (3rd left) inspecting one of the “golden trains”

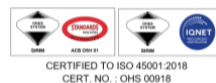
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About Sarawak Metro and KUTS project:

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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