



SARAWAK METRO SDN BHD (201801007738)
A Member of the SEDC Group of Companies

16-01A, Level 16, Gateway Kuching,
No. 9, Jalan Bukit Mata Kuching,
93100 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

Tel: (082) 524 222
Fax: (082) 524 224
E-mail: info@mysarawakmetro.com
Website: www.mysarawakmetro.com

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A step closer towards transforming public transport in Sarawak

KUCHING: Sarawak is a step closer towards its drive to modernise the public transportation in the State with the arrival of the prototype unit of the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) hydrogen vehicle today.

The hydrogen-powered ART arrived at Senari Terminal on board the vessel HF Spirit and berthed at around 8.00am, after a journey of more than two weeks.

The vessel set sail from Shanghai Port on 15 July.

On hand to witness the historic arrival of the hydrogen-powered ART vehicle was the Chairman of Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz Bin Dato Haji Husain.

Describing this historic moment as another milestone for Sarawak Metro, Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz said the arrival of this prototype unit signified that Sarawak is a step closer towards realising the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project developed to modernise public transport.

“This is also another milestone for the Government in its efforts to transform Sarawak into an advanced economy by 2030,” Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz said, adding that a modern public transport system is vital for the state’s development.

Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz, who is also Chairman of Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd, expressed confidence that once the ART starts its operation in two years’ time, Kuching’s socio-economic landscape will be significantly transformed as envisioned by the Sarawak’s top leaders.

“This project will definitely be a game changer for the State’s economic landscape,” enthused Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz.

The shipment comprised of a three-car set that will be assembled prior to the engineering run and the proof-of-concept exercise.

For media enquiries, please contact the Sarawak Metro Corporate Communication team :

Letitia Samuel, Media Senior Manager

+6(016) 800 4516

letitia.samuel@mysarawakmetro.com

www.mysarawakmetro.com



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“On arrival in Kuching, the ART vehicle will be assembled at a warehouse at Senari Terminal,” Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz said, adding that the assembly work is expected to complete within two weeks.

The assembly work includes fitting the gangway, which will be carried out by the technical crew from CRRC Zhuzhou Institute Co. Ltd together with engineers and technicians from Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd.

Once assembled, the ART will undergo the engineering run for two months, starting 1 September.

“This engineering run is important for us to refine the specification of the ART and also to identify any potential issues before we start with the Proof-of-Concept (POC) exercise,” explained Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz.

The engineering run will be conducted at the Isthmus area while the POC exercise will be held in November, along a section of the Kuching Samarahan Expressway.

The site for the POC exercise is a 3km lane built between two roundabouts that have been converted into smart traffic light junctions.

This stretch will be part of the permanent dedicated lane built for the ART Blue Line alignment.

“The POC exercise is for us to collect data to evaluate the feasibility of the prototype for the final design of the vehicle,” added Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz.

During both the engineering run and the POC exercise, the prototype ART hydrogen vehicle would not be open to the public for rides. However, selected stakeholders will be invited to experience a ride on the ART, as part of the data collection efforts.

“During the engineering run and the POC exercise, the ART will mostly not carry any passengers. Rides on this prototype ART will only be held at certain times, and this is by invitation only and for selected stakeholders,” explained Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz.

Meanwhile, passenger service for the ART will commence in stages – starting in the fourth quarter of 2025, with the Blue Line that runs from Rembus in Kota Samarahan to Hikmah Exchange in the centre of Kuching city.

Apart from the Blue Line, two other lines will be built under Phase 1 of the KUTS project; the Red Line (from Kuching Sentral to Pending) and the Green Line (from Pending to Damai Central).

Phase 1 of the KUTS project is schedule to be completed by 2027.

To complement the ART service will be the feeder bus network that will provide the first mile and last mile connectivity for KUTS.

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Both the ART vehicles and the feeder buses for the KUTS Project are zero-emission vehicles powered by hydrogen.

The move is to support the Government's efforts to advance the hydrogen economy as well as the initiative to decarbonise the public transportation sector.

Among those present at Senari Terminal to witness the arrival of the prototype ART hydrogen vehicle were Deputy State Secretary (Economic Planning and Development) Datu Dr Muhammad Abdullah Zaidel, Ministry of Transport Sarawak Deputy Permanent Secretary Selamat Jati Yanjah, Chairman of Kuching Port Authority (KPA) Dato Awang Bemee bin Pengiran Ali Basah, KPA General Manager Robert Lau, SEDC General Manager Datu Haji Abdul Hadi bin Datuk Haji Abdul Kadir, Tan Sri Abdul Aziz's wife, Puan Sri Datin Amar Nur Azhima Aziz and Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer, Technologist Mazli Mustaffa as well as representatives from EMG JV Sdn Bhd, the Systems Package 1 contractor for Phase 1 of the KUTS project.

End.

Photos and caption:

FOR THE ALBUM: A group photo of Tan Sri Abdul Azizi



FOR THE ALBUM: Tan Sri Abdul Aziz and Mazli (5th and 8th from left) posing for a group photograph as the first car being lower from the vessel at Senari Terminal.

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The first car set of the ART being used as the background for a group photograph.

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