

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Minister for Transport Sarawak Emphasises Public Safety and Traffic Management During ART Construction

KUCHING: Minister for Transport Sarawak, Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin, has urged contractors involved in the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project to prioritise public safety and minimise inconvenience to road users and nearby communities as construction progresses.

“I know that the contractors face many challenges during this construction, but they must always be mindful about how their activities impact road users and the communities near their work sites,” he said.

“As they carry out their construction activities, they should also enhance their traffic management and be extra careful when dealing with the relocation of utilities throughout the alignment of the KUTS project.”

Dato Sri Lee acknowledged that one of the major challenges faced by the contractors were related to uncharted utilities, and as such, greater care should be exercised in order to ensure that utility services are not severely disrupted.

“As we strive to transform our public transport system for the future of Kuching, it is also vital for all our contractors to reduce any inconvenience to the public during their construction works,” he added.

The Minister made these remarks during his working visit to the ART Interchange Station (SR10) construction site at the Simpang Tiga area, one of the key stations under the KUTS Red Line package.

Upon arrival, Dato Sri Lee and his entourage were received by representatives from Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd, led by its Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustaffa, and the SJCJV, the joint venture contractor comprising Sri Datai Construction (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd, JT JV Builders Sdn Bhd, and CHEC Construction (M) Sdn Bhd.

The SJCJV is responsible for the construction and completion of infrastructure works for the 12.3km Red Line, which runs from Kuching Sentral to Pending. During the visit, the Minister was briefed on

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the latest progress of the Red Line and the interchange station, which will serve as a major connection point between KUTS lines in the future.

Sarawak Metro CEO Ts. Mazli Mustaffa reaffirmed the Minister’s call, stating that the company continues to collaborate closely with its contractors to strengthen traffic management procedures and minimise public inconvenience.

“We continue to strengthen our processes and procedures to make sure that our traffic management and utilities relocation works keep improving. Apart from that, we always work closely with the relevant agencies and other stakeholders to further ensure that our construction activities do not cause too much inconvenience to the local communities,” said Mazli.

The KUTS project, spearheaded by Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd, is a key initiative under the Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030, aimed at modernising urban mobility and improving public transport connectivity in Greater Kuching through the implementation of the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) system.

Ends.

**Photos and captions:**



Lee Kim Shin (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) being briefed on the construction progress of Simpang Tiga Interchange Station, while Mazli (right) looks on.

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Lee (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) discussing with Mazli (5<sup>th</sup> from left) and others about the Red Line package of the Kuching Urban Transportation System.



Mazli (5<sup>th</sup> from right) explaining to Lee Kim Shin (7<sup>th</sup> from right) during the site visit.



Lee (12<sup>th</sup> from right) in a group photo with the management team from Sarawak Metro and the contractors.

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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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