



## **For Immediate Release**

Press Release

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### **Another milestone for KUTS Project with first ART hydrogen vehicle pre-commissioning and physical inspection**

**YIBIN, CHINA:** The Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) Project marked another major milestone with the pre-commissioning and physical inspection of the first unit of the Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) hydrogen vehicles in China.

This unit, or 'golden train', will be the first of two ART hydrogen vehicles to be delivered to Kuching by the end of the year.

To mark the event, Minister for Transport Sarawak, the Honourable Dato Sri Lee Kim Shin, was on hand to officiate at a pre-commissioning ceremony and also took part in the ART vehicle's physical inspection and test ride at the CRRC manufacturing facility in Yibin, in China's Sichuan Province, today.

Of the 38 total units of ART hydrogen vehicles set to arrive in stages in Kuching starting this year, five will be delivered fully assembled while the balance are set to arrive as semi-assembled units over the next couple of years.

According to Dato Sri Lee, he was pleased with the progress of the manufacturing process and pointed out that with each milestone achieved in the KUTS Project, Sarawak has received more attention than before.

"Our ART project has attracted the attention not only of some of the other states in Malaysia, but also the interest of our regional neighbours, especially when we were

able to showcase the ART hydrogen vehicle during last year's proof of concept (POC) exercise and engineering run.

"I believe the whole world is paying attention to what we are doing in transforming the public transport system, especially our efforts in using clean energy, in this case green hydrogen," said the Minister, during a meeting with the top management team of CRRC in conjunction with the pre-commissioning event at the CRRC manufacturing facility.

Dato Sri Lee also highlighted that sustainability objectives were high on the list of priorities for the KUTS Project and as such efforts were also being made to explore all the advances in hydrogen technology, especially towards reducing the cost of production of green hydrogen for our public transport needs.

"I believe the whole world is looking at the issue of reducing the cost of production of clean energy such as green hydrogen and if we are able to find the best solutions, the hydrogen economy will have an even brighter future," he said, while also pointing out that Sarawak was one of the pioneers in adopting this zero-emission public transport system, outside of China.

Compared to the prototype ART vehicle used for the POC exercise, the new ART vehicles have incorporated several upgrades; capable of climbing slopes of up to 10% and can be used in various road environments, with a maximum speed of up to 80km/h.

The ART hydrogen vehicles now adopt a lighter weight design, significantly reducing the weight by 2.5 tons, making them more energy-efficient.

Further adding to the user-friendliness of the ART hydrogen vehicles, they will also include dedicated areas for luggage, wheelchairs, and foldable bicycles.

Among those present at the ceremony were Deputy Minister of Transport Sarawak the Honourable Datuk Jerip Susil, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Transport Sarawak Datu Wong Hee Sieng, Commercial Vehicle Licensing Board Sarawak Director Cornelia Wong Chui, Chairman of Padawan Municipal Council Tan Kai, Bintulu Development Authority Senior Planning Manager Fatehi Marzuki, Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer Mazli Mustaffa, and EMGJV Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer Chan Chee Kian.

Also present were Yibin Municipal Government Standing Committee Member Tao Xuezhou, CRRC Zhuzhou Institute Inc. Deputy General Manager Chen Jian, and Hunan CRRC Intelligent Transport Technology Co. Ltd. General Manager Peng Zhonghong.

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- This is a joint press release by the Ministry of Transport Sarawak and Sarawak Metro