



# MEDIA RELEASE

## FINAL TUNNEL BORING MACHINE BREAKTHROUGH FOR THE MRT PUTRAJAYA LINE

### *New MRT Corp CEO witnesses major project milestone*

**Kuala Lumpur, 17 July 2020:** The MRT Putrajaya Line (previously known as the MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line) saw its final tunnel boring machine (TBM) breakthrough at the Ampang Park MRT Station site today, marking a major milestone for the project.

The TBM, codenamed TBM 774, was launched in September 2019 from Conlay MRT Station site and excavated a section of the MRT tunnel beneath Jalan Stonor, Persiaran KLCC, Jalan Binjai and Jalan Ampang as well as the LRT Kelana Jaya Line tunnels to the Ampang Park MRT Station site, a distance of 917 metres.

The breakthrough – where a TBM completes its excavation work and bores through the wall and breaks into a station box or shaft – was witnessed by Datuk Mohd Zarif Hashim, the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp).

“This is a major milestone for the project as it indicates that tunnel excavation works for the MRT Putrajaya Line, which is among the most complex parts of the project, is drawing to a close,” he said during the event.

He added that today’s breakthrough also showed that the project was able to achieve good progress despite the Covid-19 pandemic.



Zarif's tenure with MRT Corp commenced on 15 July 2020, taking over from Encik Abdul Yazid Kassim.

Also present at the breakthrough were MRT Corp's Project Director MRT Putrajaya Line Dato' Amiruddin Ma'aris, MMC Gamuda KVMRT (PDP SSP) Sdn Bhd Directors Dato' Ir Paul Ha and Datuk Seri Che Khalib Mohd Noh as well as MMC Gamuda MRT Putrajaya Line Project Director Dato' Wong Wai Ching. MMC Gamuda is the turnkey contractor for the construction of the MRT Putrajaya Line.

With today's TBM breakthrough, tunnel excavation for the MRT Putrajaya Line has reached 98% completion. Less than 400m of tunnelling distance is left and is expected to be completed next month.

This remaining section is being excavated by the last of the 12 TBMs that were used for the project. The completion of this remaining section however will not be as dramatic as today's breakthrough because the TBM will be dismantled inside the tunnel when it concludes its job by docking at the retaining wall of the current Tun Razak Exchange Station.

Amiruddin said today's breakthrough was the result of everyone involved in the project working together effectively and diligently to ensure that the project is completed on time and within cost.

"Tunnelling works have been challenging as we had to excavate through three types of geological conditions, namely karstic limestone, granite and the Kenny Hill Formation. The karstic limestone condition is among the most challenging type of formation for tunnellers," he said.

On the Covid-19 pandemic, Amiruddin said MRT Corp and its turnkey contractor placed utmost importance on the safety of workers.

"All necessary approvals from the authorities were obtained before we allowed work to be resumed. All workers who work at our sites undergo the Covid-19 test and this has ensured that our workers remain healthy and construction work proceeding smoothly," added Amiruddin.

The underground section of the MRT Putrajaya Line is 13.5km in length. To construct the twin tunnels for this section, 12 TBMs were used. Of the 12 TBMs, eight were previously used for the MRT Kajang Line (previously known as MRT Sungai Buloh-



Kajang Line) and underwent refurbishment in a plant in Pusing, Perak - the first time ever that such work was carried out in Malaysia – before being re-deployed for the MRT Putrajaya Line.

The TBMs also underwent improvements and upgrading, including being able to be controlled autonomously with the use of artificial intelligence algorithms to optimize performance.

The second line to be constructed under the Klang Valley MRT Project, the MRT Putrajaya Line will have 36 stations, of which nine are underground stations. The entire alignment is 56.2km running from Kwasa Damansara to Putrajaya Sentral.

The overall progress of the MRT Putrajaya Line more than 75%.

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