

KERATAN AKHBAR

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prasarana Malaysia Bhd is expecting an increase in average daily usage for all its rail and bus services from 722,000 in 2022 to 1,200,000 this year, with the full opening of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Putrajaya Line in March.

President and group CEO Mohd Azharuddin Mat Sah said an estimated 100,000 people would benefit daily in the first year and demand is expected to increase on yearly basis.

Phase One of line, which runs 17.5km and comprises 12 stations, was launched on June 16, 2022 while Phase Two will span 57.7km with 36 stations from Kwasa Damansara to Putrajaya, covering high-density areas such as Bandar Sri Damansara, Kepong, Batu, Jalan

Sultan Azlan Shah, Jalan Tun Razak, Persiaran KLCC, Kuchai Lama, Seri Kembangan, Cyberjaya and Putrajaya.

The exact opening date would be announced later by Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd, the rail contractor and developer.

Mohd Azharuddin said before approval to fully operate can be given by the Land Public Transport Agency, it is a prerequisite to test and measure the effectiveness of the system.

He said the operation of the Putrajaya Line would provide better opportunities to small business owners, as was seen during the extension of the light rail transit (LRT) network to Putra Heights.

He added that Prasarana aims to increase

service reliability, especially for the rail systems, and public transport users could expect improved peak-hour headway as train frequencies are increased.

He said he expects train frequency to be increased to three minutes by September while for the MRT Kajang Line, peak hour frequency would be increased to four minutes by August.

"This is the result of progressive wheel replacements from June 2022 to December 2024 due to earlier-than-expected wheel deterioration."

Mohd Azharuddin also said frequencies for the KL Monorail service would be increased to five minutes in the fourth quarter of the 2023 financial year. - Bernama