

PRESS RELEASE

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PUBLIC INSPECTION OF ECRL'S NEW MENTAKAB-PORT KLANG ALIGNMENT STARTS 14 JANUARY

Kuala Lumpur, 10 January: The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project's newly minted Mentakab-Port Klang alignment, that traverses a more southerly route via Negeri Sembilan and the administrative capital of Wilayah Persekutuan (WP) Putrajaya, will be displayed during its Public Inspection exercise beginning Tuesday, 14 January 2020.

Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL) said the 3-month Public Inspection would enable the public to provide feedback and suggestions to the proposed new alignment from Mentakab, Pahang to Port Klang, Selangor which comprises a mainline with a length of 143.1 km, spurline measuring 41.5 km, five passenger/freight stations, and one future station.

The ECRL's Mentakab to Port Klang alignment (also known as Section C) has designated passenger & freight stations at Temerloh in Pahang and Jenjarom in Selangor as well as passenger-only stations at Klawang and Nilai in Negeri Sembilan, and Putrajaya Sentral in WP Putrajaya.

Agensi Pengangkutan Awam Darat (APAD) had recently provided MRL the conditional approval for the ECRL Railway Scheme for Section C. The Public Inspection information booths for Section C will operate on work days at the APAD headquarters in Kuala Lumpur and the Ministry of Transport in Putrajaya from 14 January 2020 until 14 April 2020.

An additional of five public inspection booths will be operational at the respective *Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah* at Temerloh (Pahang), Jelebu and Seremban (Negeri Sembilan), Sepang and Kuala Langat (Selangor) from 20 January 2020 until 14 April 2020.

Public Inspection information booths elsewhere will operate on dates to be announced from time to time over the period of three months. The public may also visit MRL's website (www.mrl.com.my) or access the ECRL project's social media platform for the latest information and details of the Public Inspection exercise.

MRL Chief Executive Officer Dato' Sri Haji Darwis Abdul Razak said the new alignment for Section C was conceived to avoid the costly construction of the 17.8 km long Genting Tunnel under the initial ECRL route as well as to stay clear of the Klang Gates Quartz Ridge in Selangor which is being established as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

"The Section C alignment is crucial in the formation of a land bridge between Kuantan Port and Port Klang where the 640-km ECRL network will end. This will pave the way for increase freight transactions due to shorter travel time between the two ports," he said adding that the Mentakab-Port Klang stretch via a more southerly route took into greater consideration of rail connectivity, environmental safeguards, and social-economic impact.

Besides enabling more states to participate in the 640-km ECRL rail network, Darwis said the Section C alignment would facilitate the ECRL to leverage on the existing Express Rail Link (ERL) service and the upcoming MRT Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya Line (SSP Line) which had earmarked an interchange at Putrajaya Sentral for connectivity to KL International Airport (KLIA) and Kuala Lumpur's central business district.

He said the Section C alignment would help smoothen rail connectivity on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia as ECRL passengers could connect to KTM Komuter and Electric Train Service (ETS) via ECRL's Nilai station.

"In line with the Public Inspection for Section C, MRL has initiated the Environmental Impact Assessment, Social Impact Assessment, and Heritage Impact Assessment reports for consideration by relevant authorities in a bid to obtain the final approval of the Mentakab-Port Klang Railway Scheme from APAD," noted MRL's Chief Executive Officer.

Darwis also said preliminary works such as topography survey is actively ongoing on multiple spots along the Section C alignment while soil investigation works were expected to commence soon. Barring the final approval of the Railway Scheme for Section C, civil works for the Mentakab-Port Klang stretch including earthworks and foundation works is targeted to commence from July 2020 onwards.

"MRL is pleased that the overall progress of the ECRL project has increased to 14.49 percent currently, boosted primarily by ongoing construction works at 27 priority locations within its Dungun to Mentakab alignment (also known as Section B)," he added.

MRL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Minister of Finance Incorporated, is the project and asset owner of the ECRL while China Communications Construction Company Ltd (CCCC) is the main contractor. Scheduled for completion by December 2026, the 640-km ECRL will traverse the East Coast states of Kelantan, Terengganu, and Pahang as well as Negeri Sembilan, WP Putrajaya, and Selangor on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

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