

PRESS RELEASE

25 August 2023

ECRL PROJECT REGISTERS 24TH TUNNEL BREAKTHROUGH AT 'KAMPUNG GEDUNG SIAM 3 TUNNEL'

Latest breakthrough signals completion of tunnel excavations for Sections A & B

Kuantan, Pahang, 25 August: The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) Project's 1.32-km 'Kampung Gedung Siam 3 Tunnel' has achieved a tunnelling breakthrough as per schedule, becoming the 24th to ECRL tunnel to successfully complete the tunnel excavation process to date.

The final excavation at 'Kampung Gedung Siam 3 Tunnel' punched through the last barrier about 126 meters from the tunnel's entrance portal. The achievement is a culmination of approximately 27,980 man-hours and the adoption of the drill-and-blast method of tunnelling that bored through primarily weathered sandstone.

The single bore 'Kampung Gedung Siam 3 Tunnel' has an average height of 13.47 meters and width of 13.02 meters which is adequate to accommodate two standard gauge railway tracks. The tunnel's permanent lining has also reached a commendable length exceeding 1,113 meters prior to today's breakthrough.

Excavation works for 'Kampung Gedung Siam 3 Tunnel' commenced in January 2020 and has been scheduled to breakthrough by August 2023. The construction of the tunnel will enable the ECRL railway track to comply with its maximum gradient of 0.74 percent as well as avoid major open forest cutting in the area.

Out of the 25 ECRL tunnels that have achieved tunnelling breakthrough to date, 21 tunnels are located within the project's alignment in Section A (Kota Bharu-Dungun) and Section B (Dungun-Mentakab) while four tunnels are in Section C (Mentakab-Port Klang).

For the record, the ECRL Project registered its first tunnel breakthrough at the 1.1-km Paka Tunnel in Terengganu six months ahead of schedule back in April 2021. The ECRL final design for construction features 40 tunnels totalling approximately 69 km in length along its rail alignment from Kota Bharu to Port Klang.

Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL) Chairman, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, said the ECRL Project reached another major milestone with the breakthrough at the 1.32-km 'Kampung Gedung Siam 3 Tunnel', which also signals the completion of tunnel excavation works for all ECRL tunnels along Sections A and B of the alignment.

"We wish to commend the commitment and teamwork of the ECRL workforce at 'Kampung Gedung Siam 3 Tunnel' which saw 167,830 cubic meters of soil and rock excavated safely and with minimal ground movement throughout. The achievement will also enable the civil works for this tunnel to be fully completed by April 2024," he said when officiating the 'Kampung Gedung Siam 3 Tunnel' breakthrough ceremony today.



Tan Sri Zuki said the ECRL Project is also pleased with the completion of critical works involving installation of long-span bridges (108 meter each) at five locations in Sections A and B as well as successful tunnel excavation works in Sections A and B, adding that the installation of ECRL tracks will be implemented in the fourth quarter of 2023 beginning with the rail alignment from Gebeng to Dungun.

The ECRL Project has achieved an overall completion rate of 48.77 percent currently, paving the way for completion of the rail infrastructure from Kota Bharu to the Gombak Integrated Transport Terminal in December 2026. The project's full completion which involves rail extension from Gombak to Port Klang is scheduled for December 2027.

China Communications Construction (ECRL) Sdn Bhd (CCC-ECRL) Managing Director, Kong Qi, commented, "Today's tunnel breakthrough marks another significant milestone in our quest to construct the 40-tunnel ECRL. It is a testament to our team's dedication and expertise, pushing the boundaries of construction technology. While we forge connections that bridge communities and propel progress, we thank MRL, our vendors, subcontractors, local government agencies, local communities and out teams along the alignment for their contribution and support."

MRL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Minister of Finance (Incorporated) [MOF (Inc.)], is the project and asset owner of the ECRL while CCC-ECRL is the engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning (EPCC) contractor. The 665-km ECRL will traverse the East Coast states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang before linking the Klang Valley on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

-Ends-

For media enquiries, please contact:

MRL

Yong Min Wei
Tel: 03 6411 5800 Ext. 5835
Email: mwyong@mrl.com.my

Nur Fatini Binti Abdul Rahman
Tel: 03-6411 5800 Ext. 6004
Email: fatini.rahman@mrl.com.my

CCC-ECRL

Grace Cheng
Tel: 012 202 7822
Email: bycheng@cccecr.com

Theresa Lam
Tel: 018 201 3830
Email: theresa.lam@sprg.com.my