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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **PM Anwar, Premier Li launches groundbreaking ceremony of the ECRL Gombak Integrated Terminal station**

**Gombak, Selangor, 19 June:** Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, together with Premier of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Li Qiang, officiated the groundbreaking ceremony of the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) Gombak Integrated Terminal station today, signalling fruitful cooperation between the two nations in the development of the landmark rail project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The ECRL Gombak Integrated Terminal station is located on an 8.73-hectare site which is positioned at the edge of the 'Gombak Selangor Quartz Ridge,' the longest quartz formation in the world. The station's architectural design draws inspiration from the quartz as a timeless expression of natural beauty coupled with the dynamic and multifaceted urban life of the Klang Valley.

Built for passenger use, the ECRL Gombak Integrated Terminal station will feature an elevated platform as well as a range of facilities such as carpark, pick-up and drop-off areas, covered walkways, staff quarters, and garden-landscaped areas. It is also expected to link with the existing Gombak LRT station to facilitate connectivity via the LRT Kelana Jaya Line.

The ECRL Gombak Integrated Terminal station groundbreaking is among several high-profile events held for the Chinese Premier's official visit to Malaysia in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the People's Republic of China.

Present at today's event include Minister of Transport Malaysia, Loke Siew Fook, Chief Secretary to the Government cum Chairman of Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL), Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, Ambassador of Malaysia to the People's Republic of China, Dato' Norman Muhamad, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malaysia, Ouyang Yujing, MRL Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Sri Darwis Abdul Razak, China Communications Construction Company Ltd (CCCC) Chairman, Wang Tongzhou, and a host of ministers and senior government officials from Malaysia and China respectively.

Today's groundbreaking ceremony paves the way for the scheduled completion of the ECRL rail alignment from Kota Bharu, Kelantan to the Gombak Integrated Terminal, Selangor in December 2026. The ECRL alignment between Gombak and Port Klang is expected to be completed by December 2027 instead.

The construction of the RM50.27 billion ECRL network that traverse the states of Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, and Selangor has achieved a decent progress of 67.09 percent as of May 2024. The implementation of the ECRL Project is supervised by the Ministry of Transport Malaysia (MOT).



Minister of Transport Malaysia, Loke Siew Fook, said: "The ECRL will optimise connectivity for passengers and freight between the east coast and west coast of Peninsular Malaysia when operational. We anticipate the ECRL to drive the shift of cargo movements from road to rail which is a safe alternative mode of transportation for long distances as well as environmentally friendly and cost-effective.

"MOT is also exploring the possibility of extending the ECRL alignment to tap into Thailand's rail network, paving the way for the ECRL to be part of the Pan-Asian rail network that is able to link Malaysia with China, hence realising the vision of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)."

Loke also expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister of Malaysia and Premier of the People's Republic of China for jointly officiating the groundbreaking of ECRL Gombak Integrated Terminal station, adding that the event marked progressive bilateral relations and close cooperation in Malaysia-China ties.

MRL Chairman, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali, said the ECRL Gombak Integrated Terminal station, which is strategically located as a familiar gateway to Kuala Lumpur, will open a new chapter for seamless connectivity for Klang Valley commuters to conveniently travel to the East Coast states and vice versa beginning January 2027.

"The ECRL will promote greener modes in passenger travel and freight transportation along its electrified rail network that links cities, towns, ports, and industrial parks. The ECRL will also be equipped with 4G LTE-Railway communications network to facilitate fast communications and efficient signalling system as well as stable multimedia services," he noted.

Wang Tongzhou, Chairman of CCCC, the parent company of CCC-ECRL, stated, "Today marks a significant milestone in the enduring partnership between Malaysia and China. The ECRL Gombak Integrated Terminal station symbolises not just the physical connection of our nations but the strong economic, cultural, and technological ties we have built over the past 50 years.

We would like to extend our gratitude for our Premier, Li Qiang and the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim for officiating today's event. The ECRL Project epitomises our shared vision for the future, fostering growth, connectivity, and mutual prosperity for both countries, and setting a benchmark for international cooperation."

The 665-km ECRL that starts from Kota Bharu and terminates at Port Klang will feature 20 stations, comprising 10-passenger only stations and another 10 stations combining passenger & freight. The ECRL passenger train will cut travel time and expected to link Kota Bharu with Gombak in 4 hours as compared to some 7 hours via road transportation.

MRL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Minister of Finance (Incorporated), is the project owner of the ECRL while CCCC is the engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning (EPCC) contractor for the project.

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