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PRESS RELEASE

MRL AND CCCECRL FORGE LANDMARK PARTNERSHIP FOR ECRL OPERATIONS

Putrajaya, 18 December 2024: A significant milestone has been reached in the operation of the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) as Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL) and China Communications Construction (ECRL) Sdn Bhd (CCCECRL) have formally inked the joint venture today.

This partnership establishes a 50:50 joint venture that will oversee the operation of the 665-km ECRL, connecting Kota Bharu to Port Klang.

The newly formed partnership introduces a balanced risk-sharing model, with both MRL and CCCECRL sharing responsibility for operational deficits. This approach reduces the financial risk to the Malaysian government while fostering a shared commitment to the project's smooth operation.

Importantly, MRL will retain full ownership of all ECRL assets, ensuring that national interests are protected while benefiting from the expertise of its international partner. A key feature of this collaboration is its focus on local empowerment.

Up to 80% of the operational and maintenance workforce for the ECRL will be sourced from Malaysia, creating new job opportunities and facilitating the transfer of valuable skills to the local workforce. This emphasis on local talent is central to the joint venture's vision of ensuring long-term sustainability and operational efficiency.

MRL Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Sri Darwis Abdul Razak, signed the agreement on behalf of the company while CCCECRL was represented by its Managing Director, Kong Qi. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Minister of Transport Malaysia, Loke Siew Fook, and Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malaysia, Ouyang Yujing.

The ECRL is expected to significantly reduce travel time across the peninsula and stimulate economic activity along its route. Operations are slated to commence in January 2027, offering new opportunities for growth and improved connectivity.

This partnership marks a step forward in the development of Malaysia's rail infrastructure, fostering a spirit of collaboration while prioritizing local involvement.

The MRL-CCCECRL joint venture aims to contribute to a more connected, prosperous Malaysia through responsible, inclusive development that benefits the nation and its people.

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