



PRESS RELEASE

ECRL Maran to Kota Bharu Track Laying Works Completed Ahead of Schedule

Kota Bharu, 15 January: The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project has successfully completed the installation of approximately 400 km of tracks along its main alignment from Maran, Pahang to Kota Bharu, Kelantan ahead of schedule.

This major milestone was achieved with today's completion of the ECRL track laying works for Phase 3 involving 206 km from Dungun in Terengganu to Kota Bharu, two months earlier than expected.

The 'CCPG-500A' track laying machine, making its debut in Malaysia's rail industry, managed to complete the Phase 3 track laying works today when it reached the ECRL Kota Bharu Station, which also marks the starting point of the ECRL rail alignment.

The Phase 3 of the ECRL track laying works began from Kampung Batu Tujuh in Dungun on 13 July 2024 towards Bandar Baru Tunjong in Kota Bharu. The track laying machine installed an average of 1.5 km of track per day, successfully reached its destination within 160 work days.

For the record, the Phase 1 of the ECRL track laying works, covering 92 km main line from Kuantan Port City (KPC) in Pahang to Dungun, began on 11 December 2023. The Phase 1 was completed a month ahead of schedule, towards the end of February 2024.

This progress has enabled the ECRL track laying works for the Phase 2, from KPC to Maran in Pahang to commence on 9 March 2024. The Phase 2, covering the 97 km main alignment, was also completed one and a half month ahead of schedule in mid-June 2024.

The Chief Executive Officer of Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL), Dato' Sri Darwis Abdul Razak, said the success of the Phase 3 ECRL track laying works was driven by the use of the latest and most advanced technology from China as well as demonstrated the dedication and teamwork of the ECRL workforce along the rail alignment.

"The ECRL project has recorded a major milestone in track laying works supported by the smooth installation and earlier than expected completion of tracks for Phases 1 to 3. This accomplishment also meant that nearly 400 km of tracks for the ECRL main line have been completed from Maran to Kota Bharu" he said during the Completion of ECRL Track Laying Works from Maran to Kota Bharu Ceremony.

Dato' Sri Darwis also said that the ECRL project will expedite the construction of electrification, signalling, and telecommunications systems in Kelantan, following the track works completion that spans some 43.86 km in the state.

Managing Director of China Communications Construction (ECRL) Sdn Bhd, Kong Qi, said "The early completion of track-laying work from Maran to Kota Bharu marks a significant milestone in CCCECRL's commitment to building a state-of-the-art railway that connects Malaysia's East and West Coasts. This achievement reflects not only our dedication to delivering excellence but also our pride in fostering local talent by training Malaysian engineers to become railway professionals.



Looking ahead, track-laying work towards Selangor is set to begin soon, bringing us closer to achieving our goal of commencing operations in 2027. With advanced technologies, efficient methods, and a focus on developing skilled manpower, we remain steadfast in creating a transformative and sustainable infrastructure for Malaysia."

The construction of the ECRL alignment in Kelantan has made substantial progress, with 87.80 percent completion as of December 2024. Kelantan will have two ECRL stations, namely the Kota Bharu Station in Bandar Baru Tunjong for passenger services, and the Pasir Puteh Station in Cherang Tuli, which will serve both passenger and cargo use.

The 665-kilometre ECRL project will traverse the East Coast states of Kelantan, Terengganu, and Pahang before connecting to Selangor on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The ECRL alignment from Kota Bharu to the Gombak Integrated Terminal is expected to be completed in December 2026 and begin operations in January 2027.

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