



PRESS RELEASE

12 JULY 2025

ECRL POWERS AHEAD WITH BREAKTHROUGH AT 16.39-KM GENTING TUNNEL

Genting Tunnel Breakthrough completes excavation works for all 41 tunnels

Kuala Lumpur, 12 July 2025 – The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project has reached a major engineering milestone with the successful breakthrough of the 16.39-kilometre Genting Tunnel, officially marking the completion of the final tunnel excavation along the 665-kilometre alignment from Kota Bharu, Kelantan to Port Klang, Selangor.

The Genting Tunnel is not only the longest ECRL tunnel but officially recognised as the longest railway tunnel in Malaysia. **The Malaysia Book of Records (MBOR)** has today certified the Genting Tunnel with two extraordinary achievements namely:

- **Longest Railway Tunnel in Malaysia** at 16.39 kilometres, and
- **Highest Overburden for a Railway Tunnel in Malaysia**, situated beneath more than **750 metres** of mountainous terrain.

The 16.39-km Genting Tunnel is expected to be the longest railway tunnel in Southeast Asia upon its full completion.

Located within the Titiwangsa mountain range, the Genting Tunnel was the most technically challenging of the 41 tunnels constructed along the ECRL alignment. The final breakthrough occurred approximately 10.8 kilometres from the entrance portal, successfully completing the full 16.39-kilometre length. Construction employed a hybrid method using both TBM and drill-and-blast techniques to adapt to the area's highly complex and varied geological conditions.

Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL) Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Sri Darwis Abdul Razak, said the breakthrough at the 16.39-km Genting Tunnel as per schedule was a significant achievement considering the ECRL Project team had to face demanding geological conditions when tunnelling through the hilly terrain of the Titiwangsa Range using a combination of TBM and "drill & blast" excavation methods.

"The Genting Tunnel breakthrough also signals the completion of excavation works for all 41 ECRL tunnels along the 665-km alignment. This major milestone highlights the strong collaboration and dedication among ECRL personnel at all levels in carrying out tunnel excavation works with meticulous planning and robust safety protocols," he noted.

Dato' Sri Darwis also said the construction of the 16.39-km Genting Tunnel, certified as the longest railway tunnel by the Malaysia Book of Records (MBOR) today, is a key component of the ECRL Project as it will complete the *ECRL landbridge* to connect Kuantan Port on the East Coast to Port Klang on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.



“We are optimistic the *ECRL landbridge* will complement international trade and spur export-oriented industries as it will facilitate seamless freight transportation with last-mile connectivity between Kuantan Port and Port Klang. The ECRL will also cut travel time as it will directly link commuters from the East Coast states to the Gombak Integrated Terminal which is a gateway to the federal capital,” he added.

With the completion of all tunnelling works, the ECRL project now moves into its next phase, which includes track installation, electrification, signalling and communication systems, as well as station interior fit-outs. All works remain on schedule and aligned with the project’s master timeline.

“This is a proud moment for everyone involved in the ECRL project,” said Deng Bo, Managing Director of China Communications Construction (ECRL) Sdn Bhd (CCCECRL). “The precision and power of our Tunnel Boring Machine, one of the largest ever deployed in the region, combined with the dedication and professionalism of our engineers, workers, and Malaysian partners, made this achievement possible. Behind every great machine is an even greater team.”

The ECRL is on track for full completion by the end of 2026. Passenger services are expected to commence in phases starting January 2027, with the initial segment connecting Kota Bharu in Kelantan to Gombak in Selangor. Once operational, the rail link will reduce travel time between Kota Bharu and Kuala Lumpur to approximately four hours, offering Malaysians a faster, safer, and more efficient transportation option.

-END-

For media enquiries, please contact:

MRL

Yong Min Wei

Tel: 012 386 6123

Email: mwyong@mrl.com.my

Ani Azureen Zainuddin

Tel: 013 361 5546

Email: azureen@mrl.com.my

Puteri Hadeeja Sofea Hasbullah

Tel: 017 333 7775

Email: hadeeja.sofea@mrl.com.my

CCCECRL

Grace Cheng

Tel: 012 202 7822

Email: bycheng@cccecr.com

Theresa Lam

Tel: 018 201 3830

Email: theresa.lam@sprg.com.my

Kua Mei Wen

Tel: 016 988 3557

Email: meiwen.kua@sprg.com.my