



**PRESS RELEASE**

**1 JULY 2025**

## 9.88-KM SERENDAH 2 TUNNEL BREAKS THROUGH AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

*ECRL Project completes excavation works for 40 tunnels to date*

**Kuala Lumpur, 1 July:** The East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) Project has achieved another major milestone with the tunnelling breakthrough of the 9.88-km 'Serendah 2 Tunnel' six months ahead of its schedule.

The breakthrough at 'Serendah 2 Tunnel' signals the completion of excavation works for 40 ECRL tunnels to date. The 'Serendah 2 Tunnel' is also the second longest tunnel being constructed along the 665-kilometre ECRL alignment that spans from Kota Bharu, Kelantan to Port Klang, Selangor.

The final blast at the 'Serendah 2 Tunnel' punched through the last barrier some 5,159 meters from the tunnel entrance portal. The achievement is a culmination of approximately 9.78 million man-hours and the adoption of "New Austrian Tunnelling Method" (NATM) that incorporates drill-and-blast excavation that bored through primarily weathered granite.

The permanent lining for the 'Serendah 2 Tunnel' has progressed to a commendable length of more than 7,500 meters prior to the breakthrough. The tunnel has an average height of 12 meters and width of 13 meters, thus providing adequate space for two standard gauge railway tracks to operate.

Excavation works for 'Serendah 2 Tunnel' commenced in August 2022 and was initially scheduled to breakthrough in December 2025. All related civil works for 'Serendah 2 Tunnel' is now expected to be fully completed by September 2026.

The construction of the tunnel will enable the ECRL railway track to comply with its maximum gradient of 0.9 percent as well as to avoid water catchment areas near Batu Dam and minimise open forest cutting in 'Hutan Simpan Ulu Gombak' and 'Hutan Simpan Serendah'.

The 'Serendah 2 Tunnel' which links Ulu Yam with Desa Anggerik in Serendah also involves the construction of four (4) tunnel adits as access points for emergency purposes.

Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL) Chairman cum Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar, officiated the "*ECRL Serendah 2 Tunnel Breakthrough Ceremony*" today. Also present were Selangor State Secretary, Dato' Dr. Ahmad Fadzli Ahmad Tajuddin, MRL Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Sri Darwis Abdul Razak, China Communications Construction (ECRL) Sdn Bhd (CCCECRL) Managing Director, Deng Bo, and senior officials of the ECRL Project.

MRL Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Sri Darwis Abdul Razak, said the breakthrough at 'Serendah 2 Tunnel' ahead of schedule demonstrates the firm commitment and strong teamwork of the ECRL Project which encompasses top management, project managers, and all levels of its workforce.

"Today's achievement marks the 40th tunnel breakthrough and further showcases the advanced engineering skills and tunnelling technology adopted by the ECRL Project in navigating complex geological conditions. Over 1.22 million cubic meters of soil and rock were safely removed with minimal ground movement and minor inconvenience to the road users throughout the excavation period of the 'Serendah 2 Tunnel,'" he said.



Dato' Sri Darwis noted that the 'Serendah 2 Tunnel' is a key component of the "ECRL landbridge" that connects Kuantan Port to Port Klang, hence providing seamless freight transportation. MRL remains committed to delivering the ECRL as a world-class infrastructure project that drives regional development and enhances logistics efficiency.

He also expressed his gratitude to the Selangor State Government, State Agencies and Local Authorities for their close cooperation and support in the implementation of the ECRL Project, adding that ECRL will feature five (5) stations and cover some 92 km of main alignment in the state.

CCCECRL Managing Director, Deng Bo, said "This breakthrough is a significant step forward for the ECRL Project, driven by strong teamwork and our commitment to engineering excellence and safety. What makes it even more meaningful is our achievement of 17 million safe man-hours without a Lost Time Injury (LTI). This milestone reflects CCCECRL's strict adherence to safety protocols, continuous training, and the strong safety culture we have built across the project. It is a collective effort to protect the wellbeing of everyone involved in this national railway infrastructure project."

In conjunction with today's tunnel breakthrough ceremony, MRL presented CCCECRL a certificate of appreciation in recognition of its outstanding contribution towards safety and health that resulted in the achievement of 17 million safe man-hours without LTI for the ECRL Project.

The ECRL Project features the construction of 41 tunnels with a total length of approximately 69 km of its rail alignment. The 16.39-km twin bore Genting Tunnel, which is in its final stages of excavation, is expected to breakthrough by mid-July 2025.

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. In contrast, the first tunnel breakthrough in Selangor was achieved at the 469-meter 'Sungai Buaya 2 Tunnel' in May 2024.

MRL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Minister of Finance (Incorporated) [MOF (Inc.)], is the project and asset owner of the ECRL while China Communications Construction Company Ltd (CCCC) 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 connecting Selangor on the West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The ECRL will cut travel time and expected to link Kota Bharu with the Gombak Integrated Terminal in 4 hours as compared to some 7 hours by road transport.

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