

COMPENSATION CLAIM

Prasarana seeks RM38m from developer over station damage

KUALA LUMPUR: Prasarana Malaysia Bhd is seeking compensation of RM38 million from the developer and site owner of a project that is responsible for damaging structures near the Bandaraya LRT station.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the amount included the cost of the repairs and additional costs borne by Prasarana.

"The costs involved will be claimed from the developer and site owner through legal proceedings," he told a press conference during his walkabout for the reopening of the LRT line between Masjid Jamek and Bandaraya stations yesterday.

Loke said the instruction from the ministry back then was to repair first before seeking compensation.

"We cannot wait for the legal

process to take place before repairs," he said.

The LRT line between the Masjid Jamek and Bandaraya stations had been closed as a precaution since Jan 27 last year, following structural and track damage near the Bandaraya station.

Ground movement from the construction of a nearby hotel was believed to have damaged three viaducts and pier structures.

Loke said Prasarana would continue monitoring the construction near the Bandaraya station.

"Whether the project will continue is not under our purview, but Kuala Lumpur City Hall's.

"Should the project continue, there are strict conditions we need to put in place so that disruption to the LRT service and structural damage do not recur.



Transport Minister Anthony Loke at the reopening of the LRT line between the Masjid Jamek and Bandaraya stations in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

"We are disappointed that the route between the two stations had to be closed for a year."

He added that the incident should serve as a lesson for everyone to be more careful.

"We urge all local councils to make sure that construction sites within 250m of rail stations or in the Railway Protection Zone take

into account safety factors before any approval is given (for future projects) and consultation is done prior to that with Prasarana and the Land Public Transport Agency (Apad)."

Asked if Kuala Lumpur City Hall had been negligent in approving the construction, Loke said: "The developer did not com-

ply with the conditions by starting the project without Apad's approval. I do not want to blame City Hall on this.

"Hence, this is why we seek co-operation from local councils and authorities not to allow any construction (for future projects) to begin before they obtain the necessary approvals."