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2 DAYS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

LRT SERVICES AT 16 STATIONS RESUME TODAY

Free rides on Kelana Jaya line for seven days from Nov 14, says rail operator

VEENA BABULAL AND
TEOH PEI YING
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

SERVICE at 16 Kelana Jaya Line LRT stations, which was suspended following disruptions to their automated control system, will resume today, two days ahead of schedule.

Caretaker Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong, in announcing this yesterday, said tests conducted between Saturday night and yesterday morning, involving 38 trains from the Gombak to Putra Heights stations, which is the full length of the route, found that the Kelana Jaya Line was safe and could fully resume.

Wee said he had taken a ride on the line as part of a test to gauge its safety.

Wee said he was also briefed on the tests done by Rapid Rail's management and technical experts on the trains to ensure that they were safe and ready to resume full service following the disruptions.

"I am extremely satisfied with

the analyses carried out on the widespread test.

"The Land Public Transport Agency also verified that the automatic train control (ATC) system was stable and declared that the line was safe to fully resume operations."

Wee said services would resume at 6am today, two days ahead of schedule.

He also assured users that there would be continuous monitoring by technical experts from Rapid Rail and its manufacturers to ensure operations ran smoothly.

"I hope that this resumption can provide relief to public transport users in the Klang Valley to commute to work and to carry out daily activities."

Wee said he had asked Prasarana to continue providing feeder buses at hot spot stations.

"As I mentioned in the press conference on Nov 11, I have asked the infrastructure management to speed up the process of replacing the ATC system so that this problem does not recur."

He said affected users would also be compensated for their travel passes as per the number of days their journey was disrupted.



Rapid Rail says it will ensure that the LRT operations run smoothly and technical problems leading to service suspension will not recur. BERNAMA PIC

He thanked the Rapid Rail engineers and parties involved who had worked round the clock to repair the system.

He also expressed gratitude to Rapid Bus, Smart Selangor and Mara Liner that provided more than 100 buses every day as well as station staff, Kuala Lumpur City Hall and other supporting staff who helped affected LRT passengers along their journey.

Wee also commended members of the public who had offered free shuttle services with their private cars.

"This effort is highly commendable and is proof of the co-operation among all of us in the Malaysian Family."

The authorities had announced that LRT services at 16 stations, from Kelana Jaya to Ampang Park, would be suspended from Nov 9 to 15 due to a faulty ATC.

The closure affected thousands

of commuters.

The stations involved were Kelana Jaya, Taman Bahagia, Taman Paramount, Asia Jaya, Taman Jaya, Universiti, Kerinchi, Bangsar, Abdullah Hukum, KL Sentral, Pasar Seni, Masjid Jamek, Dang Wangi, Kampung Baru, KLCC and Ampang Park.

Prasarana Malaysia Bhd president and group chief executive, Mohd Azharuddin Mat Sah said continuous monitoring would be done to ensure the stability and safety of the service.

He said the decision to suspend operations was done with safety of the public in mind.

"We hope that resuming services ahead of schedule will reduce the inconvenience experienced by commuters, especially those plying the Kelana Jaya line," he said.

Rapid Rail Sdn Bhd said there would be free passage on the Ke-

lana Jaya line for seven days, from today to Nov 20, even though the disruption was only for five days.

"For My50 users, they will be given seven days of free rides when they renew their passes. Renewals can take place from Nov 21 to Dec 20," it said, reminding My50 users to have at least RM5 in their passes.

It said Touch 'n Go card users using the Kelana Jaya line can use their cards as usual without any charge between Nov 14 and 20, on the condition that the starting point and final destination were stations along the line.

They were also reminded to have at least RM5 in their cards.

The company thanked all quarters for their patience and apologised for the service disruption.

"All efforts will be made to ensure that a disruption of this nature does not recur," it said.