

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**19 August 2026****Sarawak Metro hosts site visit by polytechnic students from Pontianak**

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro) recently hosted students from Politeknik Negeri Pontianak (POLNEP) as they visited various sites of the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project.

The visitors, comprising 90 students and four academic staff from POLNEP's Department of Civil Engineering, had the opportunity to tour the ART depot site in Rembus, Kota Samarahan, the ART Station at The Northbank, and the precast concrete facility operated by Sarawak Metro's contractor.

Their technical and educational visit was also in collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), as part of their academic exchange and experiential learning programme.

The objective of the visit was to give the students an insight into the planning, design, construction, methodologies, project management practices and engineering innovations adopted in the KUTS project.

According to Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustaffa, it was inspiring to see that institutions of higher learning from beyond Sarawak's borders were interested to take a closer look at what is involved in the implementation of the KUTS project.

"Over the years, we have hosted a number of institutions of higher learning to our project sites, and it is always a source of inspiration for all of us at Sarawak Metro to see the interest shown in what we are doing here in the KUTS project.

"In turn, we hope that after seeing for themselves what it takes to implement a project of this scope and scale, we can also inspire them to further their knowledge in their respective fields," he said.

On the recent visit by the polytechnic students from Pontianak, Mazli said he was pleased that the KUTS project team was able to share Sarawak's story of transforming the public transport sector.

"Our hope is that these future engineers will be inspired by what we are doing in the field of engineering here in Sarawak to make a difference in their own communities, towns and cities," Mazli added.

ENDS

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Pictures and caption:



Safety briefing for the visitors from POLNEP before their tour of the Rembus Depot site



The visitors in a group photo with representatives from Sarawak Metro at the Rembus Depot mechanical workshop

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About Sarawak Metro and KUTS project:

Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro), a State-owned enterprise, has been entrusted by the Sarawak Government to modernise public transport through the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project.

Sarawak Metro is the implementer, operator and maintainer of the KUTS project.

The project is being developed in phases, and Phase 1 includes the development of three lines: the Blue Line from Rembus in Kota Samarahan to Hikmah Exchange in the city centre; the Red Line, from Kuching Sentral to Pending; and the Green Line, from Pending to Damai.

The backbone of the KUTS project is the introduction of the zero-emission Autonomous Rapid Transit (ART) hydrogen vehicles.

The ART vehicles will be operated on dedicated lanes, meaning they will not share the lane with other road users. The ART hydrogen vehicles will run on rubber tires, and hence the dedicated lanes will be trackless. The lanes will mostly be at-grade (road level) while certain sections of the alignment will be elevated.

The ART operation will be supported by a network of feeder buses, which will also consist of hydrogen-powered vehicles to offer the 'first mile and last mile' connectivity for commuters.

The move to use hydrogen is in line with the Sarawak Government's aspirations to advance the hydrogen economy and to decarbonise public transport in Sarawak.

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