

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 August 2026

Sarawak Metro celebrates graduation of final batch of apprentices

KUCHING: Sarawak Metro Sdn Bhd (Sarawak Metro) recently celebrated the graduation of the final batch of its apprentices, marking the culmination of its Young Talent Programme (YTP).

After completing their two-year apprenticeship period, the 17 apprentices received their certificates at a graduation ceremony held here on 13 August.

Sarawak Metro's chairman Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz bin Dato Haji Husain was on hand to present the apprentices with their certificates.

He also presented Mohamad A'riffin Mohamad Ali Rahman with the 'Best Apprentice' award, while Nik Ashraf Nik Mohamad Ariff was presented with the 'Best Mentor' award.

Congratulating the newly-graduated apprentices on their success, Aziz hoped that they would continue to contribute significantly towards the successful development of the Kuching Urban Transportation System (KUTS) project.

"Developing infrastructure and developing people must go hand in hand, to ensure the success of the overall project as well as the sustainability of the company's operations in the future.

"Seeing the final batch of the YTP apprentices graduate is seeing a vision become reality; equipping them with the professionalism and discipline required for the job," he said.

Meanwhile, Sarawak Metro Chief Executive Officer, Ts. Mazli Mustaffa, said the YTP was established with the vision of developing young talents who could grow together with Sarawak Metro and contribute towards the future of public transportation in Sarawak.

"A successful transportation system is not built only through technology, equipment or physical infrastructure, but also through people.

"Our greatest achievement is not just building a modern transportation system, but building the people who will operate, maintain, improve and lead it for many years to come," he said.

The graduation marks the successful completion of the YTP, which Sarawak Metro introduced in 2021 as an initiative under its Socio-Economic Enhancement Development (SEED) Programme, with

For media enquiries, please contact the Sarawak Metro Corporate Communication team :

Letitia Samuel, Media Senior Manager

+6(016) 800 4516

letitia.samuel@mysarawakmetro.com

www.mysarawakmetro.com



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CERT. NO.: QMS 03878



CERTIFIED TO ISO 14001:2015
CERT. NO.: EMS 01001



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the objective of developing young talents among local Sarawakians and preparing them to support the future of the KUTS project.

Over the past five years, the programme has successfully developed a total of 57 apprentices through four batches.

Throughout the programme, the apprentices were provided with opportunities to gain meaningful industry exposure through on-the-job training, including participation in project activities, technical discussions, site visits, industry engagements and overseas attachments with international partners.

These experiences enabled the apprentices to gain practical insights into the development of a modern transportation system, while learning from experienced engineers, specialists and industry experts across various aspects of the KUTS project.

The graduation of the final YTP batch marked the completion of an important chapter in Sarawak Metro's talent development journey.

With the conclusion of the programme, Sarawak Metro now looks forward to seeing its former apprentices continue to contribute their knowledge, skills and experience in enhancing the development of the KUTS project and the future of public transport in Sarawak.

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Photos and Captions:



Aziz presenting a graduation certificate to one of the apprentices, witnessed by Mazli (right) and Sarawak Metro's Director of Corporate Communication, SEED Programme and Bumiputera Relations, Alexius Barieng



Aziz (10th left) and Mazli (11th left) in a group photo with the newly-graduated apprentices

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SARAWAK METRO SDN BHD (201801007738)
State-owned Enterprise

SF205, SF210-212, Second Floor,
Riverside Shopping Complex,
Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman,
93100 Kuching, Sarawak.

Tel: (082) 524 222
Fax: (082) 524 224
E-mail: info@mysarawakmetro.com
Website: www.mysarawakmetro.com

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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