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Klang Valley folk a stone's throw away from public transport service by 2030

KUALA LUMPUR: By the year 2030, the government expects 80 per cent of residents in the Klang Valley to live within 400m of a public transport service.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said yesterday that this was the vision for Greater Kuala Lumpur.

"As we realise an aggressive target of 40 per cent public transport model share for Greater Kuala Lumpur and an average of 15 per cent for state capitals by the year 2030, we also expect 80 per cent of the Klang Valley population to live within 400m of a public transport service."

Speaking at the 16th International Association of Public Transport Asia-Pacific assembly here, he said at the end of last year, the public transport model share for Greater Kuala

Lumpur was 25 per cent while for state capitals, it was eight per cent.

"Kuala Lumpur is a world-class city and we make no bones about our ambition to come within the Top 20 of the world's most livable cities.

"To do so, we are aware of the need to create a public transport network that offers commuters an affordable and world-class experience."

Among the projects are improving the rail line within the Klang Valley, boosting capacity of the monorail and LRT services, introducing a bus performance monitoring system, setting up a taxi business model, promoting park-and-ride facilities and creating an automated fare system.

He added that the government also needed businesses and stakeholders to assist in the planning of the transport infrastructure.

"We are fully aware of the grouses about the shortage of manpower in the country, including in the construction sector. We took note of that and, as I speak, we are fine-tuning the process of hiring the workers," he said, adding that he would like to challenge Malaysians to work in Prasarana Malaysia Bhd.

Zahid said RapidKL's LRT Line Extension Project, which was expected to cater to an additional 300,000 commuters, would be operational soon.

"In December, we will see the opening of Phase 1 of the MRT Line 1 from Sungai Buloh to Kajang, involving 12 stations and an elevated track of 21km. Phase 2 is scheduled to open in July 2017, with an additional 30 stations and 30km of seamless travel."