



New Straits Times - SPAD Hopeful Of More Project Approvals

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT

SPAD hopeful of more project approvals

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) remains hopeful that the government will approve more land public transport projects in the 2018 Budget.

SPAD chief executive officer Mohd Azharuddin Mat Sah said the commission looked forward to the approvals of these projects, especially for buses and taxis, in continuing the government's efforts to connect more Malaysians with public transport.

vested RM700 million in Interim Stage Bus Support Fund since 2012 to make bus services acces-



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“We look forward to more government support for public transport and more projects to be approved for buses and taxis.

“As a whole, we hope that the momentum that the government is currently on will be continued next year towards realising the targeted modal share of 40 per cent from 21 per cent as of June in urban areas by 2030,” he said after the Land Public Transport Symposium and Exhibition, here, yesterday.

A modal share is referred to number of trips or the percentage of commuters using a particular type of a public transportation.

Azharuddin said the government had been instrumental in supporting the bus system across here and the city’s outskirts to connect more people to the public transport system.

He said the government had in-

sible to the rural areas and ensure the fares remained affordable.

In the 2017 Budget, the government approved a RM60 million fund to help qualified individual taxi permit recipients exit the “pajak” (mortgage) model to purchase new vehicles through a RM5,000 grant.

Also present was Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak. He also announced that the government would proceed with the RM55 billion East Coast Rail Link (ECRL).

The ECRL is a 600km rail line that will connect Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley areas with towns in the east coast states, including Bentong, Kuantan, Kuala Terengganu, Kota Baru and Tumpat, and introduce new socio-economic growth opportunities along the line. **Farah Adila**

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