

Johor commences BRT pilot testing



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JOHOR has started a three-month pilot testing for the Iskandar Malaysia Bus Rapid Transit (IMBRT) system using electric and biodiesel-based green technology buses from nine local and international bus suppliers.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Ir Hasni Mohammad said the pilot project will test the capabilities of the buses and the use of green technology, in line with the modernisation of the public transport system in the state.

“This service will ensure an efficient, convenient and environmentally friendly public transportation system, covering a wide range of areas.

“I am confident that it will be a catalyst for development, not only for the Iskandar Malaysia area, but for the entire state of Johor,” Hasni said in a statement yesterday.

Hasni, who officiated the pilot test project, said the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) and related agencies will also conduct assessments, collect feedback on the effectiveness and safety of the buses, and obtain approval for its actual use in the future.

He inspected the scale model of the IMBRT station and visited three types of buses considered for the feeder, direct and main routes from a total of nine other green technology buses that will be tested for the project.

IRDA CEO Datuk Ismail Ibrahim said an efficient and integrated public transport infrastructure is important to attract foreign and domestic investments, thus increasing the attractiveness of the development corridor.

The IMBRT project has identified feeder, direct and main routes that reach 2,043km or about 90% of the populated areas in Iskandar Malaysia.

When fully implemented, the IMBRT will be able to connect 55 feeder routes and 44 direct routes with the main route covering 33 stations.

Previously, Ismail said Iskandar Malaysia will be the first city in Malaysia and South-East Asia to test the automatic rapid transit system through the pilot programme.

The IMBRT project is expected to be fully completed within the next two years.