



Kuching Urban Transportation System Lessons and Takeaways from our Contemporaries



Wednesday, 27 October 2021, Kuching – Today's newsletter is a continuation of the recent article on Maltimur's technical visit to Iskandar Malaysia Bus Rapid Transit ("IMBRT") last Thursday. The following are snippets from Maltimur's Anuar Sakmin (Head, QSHET):



"At a glance, while differences abound, IMBRT is similar to our Kuching Urban Transportation System ("KUTS") project given a shared aspiration to improve the ability of our fellowmen to commute and go about their work or various daily activities. As such, the visit was an excellent opportunity to learn how IMBRT and Mobilus are developing their project.

The briefing given by the organizers was impressive as it detailed the preparation that has gone into the development of IMBRT. The project is data-driven with comprehensive studies on the general perception of the Autonomous Rapid Transit ("ART"), traffic impact, and local census.

These studies provided a solid foundation to IRDA's aspiration for intercity connectivity and the development of a convenient and efficient public transport.

We were very pleased to have the opportunity to ride around Larkin Industrial Indah in the ART!

The driver for our ART was very experienced, and the test drive was pleasant. Appointed drivers must ideally have a Class E license to manage large vehicles and ensure safety. A standard 3-carriage ART is approximately 33m long. The ART also has heads at both ends, allowing drivers to pilot the vehicle from both ends. As such, driving to and fro designated routes will be more manageable.

Riding the ART was generally comfortable and enjoyable. The interior felt wider than LRT or MRT. However, there is room for improvement, such as the hard plastic seats can be upgraded with padding to offer better comfort for passengers.

While ART is ideal for the daily commute, it may not suit those who carry lots of baggage. The under carriage houses essential components which limits space for dedicated baggage storage. "

Based on the takeaways from the technical visit at Johor, KUTS has the potential to deliver on its promise for an efficient public transportation system. Beyond that, KUTS has the potential to act as a catalyst for the development of a stronger community and economic growth in Sarawak.

