

Rapid bus system more 'practical' for KK city

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KOTA KINABALU: Former Sabah DAP supremo Datuk Jimmy Wong has slammed the Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) government for its plan to build a skytrain rapid transit system here in the state capital.

Instead, he opined that a rapid bus system would be more 'practical' for the city.

"I heard that our State Government will be building a skytrain. I want to humbly tell the minister concerned that I don't even see any skytrains in New York, Singapore or Hong Kong," he said.

Although Jimmy did not mention any names, it was clear that he was taking a swipe at State Works Minister Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin, as Bung was the one who first announced the plan.

"The skytrain will not help us mitigate flood. It will not reduce the traffic congestions," Jimmy said in a press conference on Thursday.

Jimmy, who is the leader of the newly-formed NGO called Sabah Natural Justices For Sabahans, stressed that a rapid bus system is the best solution to reduce congestions in the city.

"You need something that would drastically reduce the traffic jam in Kota Kinabalu," he said.

Jimmy added that that GRS-led Sabah government could even emulate China by

building elevated bridges for the rapid buses.

He said that he is prepared to submit a proposal to highlight the differences between a skytrain system and a rapid bus system to the government.

He even said that he is willing to lead a 'hunger strike' to protest against the skytrain project.

Jimmy also said that the government should build special lanes for cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians.

The GRS government, through its subsidiary company WHSB Ventures Sdn Bhd (WVSB), had recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vizione Development Sdn Bhd, Sycal Skycity Sdn Bhd and Guancai (M) Sdn Bhd on the said rapid transit system project. The project would be undertaken over two phases. The first phase of the skytrain would be from the Kota Kinabalu International Airport (KKIA) to the city centre's mixed development project known as Jesselton New City.

The second phase would be from the city centre to the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). The first phase would already cost approximately RM1 billion while the second phase would cost around RM1.4 billion.