

LRT's Sta. Mesa route to open in April 2004

TWENTY minutes are all it would take one to reach Sta. Mesa, Manila from Santolan, Pasig City aboard the Purple Line (Light Rail Transit 2). And this new rail transport route would open in April, 2004.

Transportation officials said the new route would provide people residing, working or studying in the southern Quezon City and Marikina, as well as those in San Juan and nearby Rizal towns of Antipolo, Cainta and Angono, less travel time in going to Manila.

The rail line operates from Santolan to Cubao, Quezon City. In April, four new stations — Betty Go Belmonte, Gilmore and J. Ruiz streets in Quezon City and V. Mapa St. in Sta. Mesa — will be opened.

Korean-made coaches that can accommodate 1,600 passengers will be used to run the 8.76-kilometer route

The whole LRT Line 2 is expected to be completed in December next year, with additional stations in Pureza St. in Sta. Mesa, Legarda St. in Sampaloc and Claro M. Recto Ave. .

The government recently color-named the rail lines as follows: the Philippine National Railways North Rail, Green Line; the Southrail, Orange Line; LRT Line 1, Yellow Line; Mass Rail Transit 3, Blue Line; and LRT 2, Purple Line.

