

Rapid Ferry to run Penang ferry services from today

PETALING JAYA: Prasarana Malaysia Bhd has completed the takeover of Penang ferry services' assets and operations from Penang Port Commission (PPC).

The public transportation company said in a statement that its unit, Rapid Ferry Sdn Bhd, would be officially operating the ferry services from today.

The takeover agreement was signed yesterday.

The transfer of Penang ferry's assets and operations to Prasarana is in line with a government decision on Sept 27, 2017 to improve the ferry operations' performance.

PPC's chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng was quoted by Bernama as saying that the commission was confident that with Prasarana's vast experience in managing public transportation, the ferry service would be improved.

"Beginning tomorrow, Penang ferry is expected to experience changes and undergo a paradigm shift aimed at meeting the challenges and customers' demand," he told reporters after the signing ceremony of the ferry service's takeover agreement yesterday.

The island's ferry service had been run by Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB) since the corporatisation of Penang Port in January 1994.

Tan said all properties belonging to PPC at the Sultan Abdul Halim and Raja Tun Uda ferry terminals would be withdrawn from their current lease to PPSB.

"The terminals would be leased to the new operator from tomorrow," he said, adding that with the move, he hoped the ferry service would no longer be politicised.



New era: A ferry plying the Penang channel. Prasarana has completed the takeover of Penang ferry services' assets and operation from the Penang Port Commission.

"The ferry service will be undergoing a transformation to enable it to become more efficient and competitive. "Under the Penang Port Commission Act 1955 and the Ports (Privatisation) Act 1990, PPC will continue as the port authority and oversee the activities and operations of Rapid Ferry," he added.

He said that Prasarana and Rapid Ferry

would carry out short-term and long-term programmes to transform and improve the Penang ferry system.

Prasarana was represented by its chief financial officer Mohd Rafizee Abdul Rahman and chief strategy and transformation officer Megat Khairolazhar Khairodin.

PPC was represented by Tan and general manager Mohamad Puzi Mohamad Nazir.