

RapidFerry returns to PPC next month



Mohd Tajuddin (with songkok) presenting a passenger with a goodie bag at the Komtar bus station in George Town. — Photos: LIM BENG TATT/ The Star

PRASARANA Malaysia Bhd will be ending its term of running the Penang ferry service by the end of August.

Its chairman Datuk Seri Mohd Tajuddin Abdul Rahman said RapidFerry Sdn Bhd is in the process of handing back the ferry services to Penang Port Commission (PPC).

“Prasarana, Rapid Penang and PPC are now in the discussion phase to transfer the ferry service back to PPC,” he said at Rapid Penang’s 13th anniversary celebration at its headquarters in George Town on Sunday.

During the celebration, he said Rapid Penang, as a public transport system, catered to the comfort of the public.

“For a developing country like Malaysia, the mobility of the people is important. People need to go places, to go to work in commercial and industrial areas.

“In developed nations like Japan, the public transport is well-prepared way earlier than us. Over 50 years ago, they started the bullet train service with a highly efficient public transport system.



Mohd Tajuddin (in white) cutting the anniversary cake with (from left) Ku Jamil, Muhammad Nizam, Muhammad Yazurin and Ahmad Shabuddin at the Rapid Penang headquarters in Lorong Kulit, George Town.

“At Rapid Penang, we hope to serve the people as this is our social obligation. Public transport is crucial to the development of a state and its people.

“We hope to serve hundreds of thousands of passengers.

“Before the movement control order (MCO), we served an average of 80,000 passengers daily,” he said.

Rapid Penang operations head Ahmad Shabuddin Abdullah said the subsidiary started operating in 2007, starting off with

46 bus routes.

“At that time, we had only some 250 bus captains. Now, we have expanded to 75 routes across the island and mainland.

“From using vintage bus ticket holders or *tiket papan* to weekly and monthly passes, our passengers can now ride without cash and limit on their bus journey.

“There are also benefit passes for students, the elderly, the disabled and locals, as well as tourists from abroad.

“Besides our OKU-friendly buses, we have Rapid Mobility as well, a door-to-door transport service for easy travel of disabled passengers.

“As a major transport system in Penang for the past 13 years, we are committed to continue providing the best service to the people of Penang,” he added.

Also present were Prasarana president and chief executive officer Muhammad Nizam Alias, Rapid Bus Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Muhammad Yazurin Sallij Muhammad Yassin and its chief operating officer Ku Jamil Zakaria.