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Sanusi-Lada

PADANG MATSIRAT ASSEMBLYMAN APPOINTED LADA BOARD MEMBER

LANGKAWI, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- Padang Matsirat state assemblyman Haji Mohamed Hassan Bulat has been appointed a member of the Board of Directors of the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada).

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, who made the announcement last night, said the appointment was made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. It took effect on Aug 1 this year.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Langkawi community leaders and government officers here, Sanusi said Mohamed Hassan was replacing him on the board as he was now the board's joint chairman by virtue of his post as Kedah Menteri Besar. The other joint chairman is Tun Daim Zainuddin.

He said Mohamed Hassan's appointment was most appropriate because now both the people's representatives on the tax-free island were on Lada's board. Sanusi is state assemblyman for Kuah.

Sanusi also said that the state government would support anyone willing to provide a ferry service offering cheaper fares and would help it get the ferry operating licence.

The offer should be a challenge to those who incessantly pressured the government to get the ferry companies to reduce the fares, he said, adding that these were the people who should take the initiative to start a new ferry service.

"I don't care whether they use sailing boats, or whatever, as long as the fares are cheaper and I will be their first passenger," he said.

The fare for the Kuah-Kuala Kedah journey was increased by RM2 to RM15 and the Kuah-Kuala Perlis fare to RM13 in May.

The ferry services to the two mainland destinations are provided by Lada Holdings Sdn Bhd, a Lada subsidiary, Kuala Perlis Langkawi Ferry Services Sdn Bhd, and Samavest Sdn Bhd.

The Langkawi Umno division, at its delegates conference last month, approved a motion asking the government to review the new ferry fares which they claimed to be steep.

However, Lada said the increase could not be avoided because of increased ferry maintenance and spare parts cost due to differences in the foreign exchange rates. Further more, the fares had not seen any increase for the last 10 years. -- BERNAMA

ZAA ARA JK