

PM launches RapidPenang

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BUTTERWORTH: After years of suffering and waiting, Penangites can finally breathe a sigh of relief as the RapidPenang public bus transport system hit the streets yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi flagged off the first of the buses from Dataran Pemuda Merdeka here after launching the Penang chapter of the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER).

Also present were Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, RapidPenang chairman Datuk Abdul Rahim Mokhti, RapidKL COO Mohd Ali Mohd Nor and RapidPenang Acting CEO Douglas David.

Abdul Rahim said RapidPenang hoped to achieve a ridership of 22,000 from the island and 24,000 from Seberang Perai.

For the first three days, commuters will enjoy free rides on these buses which will ply both the island and mainland routes.

Abdullah flagging off a bus at the launch of RapidPenang yesterday. With him are his wife Jeanne Abdullah, Koh and Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop.

RapidPenang will ply 26 routes on the island and seven on the mainland.

With 150 buses in service, RapidPenang will serve eight corridors both on the island and mainland with fares ranging from RM1 to RM3 depending on the distance.

RapidPenang has already put up 1,000 new bus stops on the island and Seberang Perai with 15 hubs at Weld Quay, Komtar, Bayan Baru, Teluk Sungai Nibong, Balik Pulau, Teluk Bahang, Tanjung Bunga, Paya Terubong, Air Itam on the island and at the Butterworth ferry terminal, Megamall Prai, Bukit Mertajam, Nibong Tebal and Kepala Batas on the mainland.

