

THE STAR

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One-ticket system

Single cashless travel on trains and buses by end of the year

COMMUTERS can look forward to a single cashless ticketing system for all public buses and trains by the end of the year.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat said the system would help simplify and stimulate the use of public transport.

"The system is one of the key areas we need to work on this year," he said after the launch of the Government Transformation Programme yesterday.

Ong is in charge of the National Key Result Area for improving urban public transport.

He said one of the selected initiatives was to establish a "1Ticket, 1SeamlessJourney" which would help reduce long waiting times, loss in fare revenues and the usage of multiple tickets.

"We have to first of all look at the different modes of public transport. Secondly, we have to look at the different operators and thirdly, on the system and how it works," he said.

Ong said the system should cater to all those needs.

"It must gel. We are still endeavouring to overcome some hurdles," he said, adding that the one-card system would be similar to Hong Kong's Octopus model.

Ong said there were currently different public transport operators and there was a need to identify the problems and overcome them.

He said there were 16 different bus and rail operators across the Klang Valley and each had their independent ticketing and fare collection system.



When asked if there would be a review in the fare system or discounted fares for the cashless system, Ong said: "That is definitely one of the many aspects."

He said the ministry was also looking at getting feedback from various organisations such as the disabled and senior citizens.

Asked if the system would use the MyKad, Ong said the Government would first work on the Touch 'n Go option.

The GTP Roadmap report said a 20% discount would be given to commuters to encourage the use of the new system.

A single-card system was also expected to help reduce boarding times by up to half and it has the potential to save the transport industry up to RM125mil in revenue annually.

The report said the deployment of an integrated ticketing and automatic fare collection system would incur a cost of approximately RM35mil if implemented on a cost-sharing basis with Touch 'n Go.