

# Loke: Ferry services will continue

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**BUTTERWORTH:** The Transport Ministry is committed to continuing and enhancing the ferry services in Penang.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke wants to reassure Penangites that the ferry services will continue as it is part of the public transport system there.

"The Penang ferry is a very iconic and unique service in Penang. The ferry service is important, as there are Penangites who use it as their daily mode of transport to go to work.

"This is a very affordable mode of transport and at the same time it is important for Penang tourism.

"I am sure it is also a wonderful experience for families to take their kids on board and drive cars onto the ferry," he said.

Loke said the government would like to enhance and continue this service.

"We want to enhance the services as Rapid Ferry just took over the services," he said during his maiden ride on a ferry to the Pengkalan Sultan Abdul Halim ferry terminal on the mainland.

Prasarana Malaysia Bhd took over the ferry services from Penang

Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB) in May.

Loke said it was understood that Prasarana would look into improving the ferry services.

Loke had announced in August that Prasarana would be allocated RM90mil to upgrade the ferries and terminals, with RM21mil going towards buying new passenger ferries.

A total of RM13.7mil from the allocation will be spent on repairing six existing ferries over three years.

Later during Loke's visit to Penang Sentral yesterday, he said he was satisfied with the building and hoped that it could open in December.



**Iconic status:** A ferry docking at the Pengkalan Sultan Abdul Halim ferry terminal in Butterworth. The building in the rear (right) is Penang Sentral.