



Smooth sailing for ferry SOP

Passengers abide by social distancing rules while crossing channel

By N. TRISHA
trishang@thestar.com.my

WITH social distancing now the new norm, passengers boarding the ferry too are abiding by the strict standard operating procedure (SOP) as they commute between the island and mainland Penang.

Cleaner Pathmah Mohd Shariff, 53, who takes the ferry every day for work, said it has become a new norm for her to leave her house wearing a mask.

"We follow the SOP when boarding the ferry and keep a distance by standing where we are told.

"They have kept the ferry clean and we feel safe boarding it.

"This is all new to me and I understand the need as it is safer. I am afraid to leave my home but I need to work," she said when met on the ferry yesterday.

“ We follow the SOP when boarding the ferry and keep a distance by standing where we are told.

Pathmah Mohd Shariff



Penang Port Commission (PPC) chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng said they have followed the National Security Council SOP and guidelines since the implementation of the movement control order (MCO) and conditional MCO.

"Some of the steps taken by the ferry services are limiting the number of ferry passengers to 50 to 60 people at a time in the waiting area and in the ferry.

"Every ferry passenger will have their temperature checked.

"The chairs in the waiting area and on the ferry are marked for the ferry passengers to sit apart from each other," he said.

All passengers are required to line up while getting on the ferry. "We have placed a yellow line at the ferry terminal for the implementation of social distancing of at least one meter.

"The gates are only open after all passengers line up in the area provided.

"Ferry passengers will be released to go in or out of the ferry two people at a time," he said.

Drivers and passengers in cars are not allowed to get out of their vehicles while in the terminal and in the ferry.

"Ferry staff will be on duty at the gate to warn all passengers of the SOP," he said.



Pathmah wearing a mask on board the ferry heading towards the island. — Photos: LIM BENG TATT/The Star

Ferry commuters sitting apart from each other as notices about social distancing are pasted on alternate seats.



A view of the section for foot passengers on board the ferry crossing the channel from Butterworth to the island.

(Left) Most ferry commuters are seen wearing masks as they board the ferry in an orderly manner at the ferry terminal in Butterworth.



On board with safety measures

Ferry commuters are seen wearing masks and queuing one meter apart before boarding the ferry at the Sultan Abdul Halim ferry terminal in Butterworth. They also have their temperature checked before they are allowed to board the ferry to cross the channel to the Penang island during the conditional movement control order period. >3