

All good now: The 'Pulau Pinang' ferry is back afloat now.

## 'Pulau Pinang' to be a floating museum

By LIEW JIA XIAN iiaxian@thestar.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: The Pulau Pinang ferry will be transformed into a floating museum soon, says Datuk Tan Teik Cheng.

The Penang Port Commission (PPC) chairman said the move would begin after the repair works are completed.

"We decided to transform it into a museum because of the name of the ferry, *Pulau Pinang*.

"The floating museum will feature the history of the iconic Penang ferries and the background of some historical sites in Penang.

"There will be a cafe and souvenir shop on board," he said yesterday.

Tan added that PPC received

many proposals from companies to turn Penang's old ferries into floating restaurants and special tourist rides

"PPC had an open tender for requests for proposal from Jan 29 to March 18 this year.

"Two ferries have been successfully picked up by eligible bidders. The other three ferries have found suitable applicants.

"We will have a board meeting this month and, hopefully, we can hand over all the iconic Penang ferries to the successful bidders by next month," he said.

There are six old Penang ferries.

One was gifted to the state government, two will be turned into special tourist ferries, two will be transformed into floating restaurants and one will be made into a floating museum.

Tan, in his Facebook post, said the *Pulau Pinang*, which is berthed in Bagan Dalam, has been afloat since Tuesday.

"Our repair team will continue to pay full attention and carry out inspection of the ferry to ensure this incident will not happen again. When all repair works have been completed, the ferry will be anchored off Tanjung City Marina and transformed into a floating museum.

"I would like to thank the PPC and Penang Port Sdn Bhd repair teams for their efforts and professional action." he said.

Pulau Pinang took in water because of damage to its hull.