

Fast boat service starts at 6.30am for benefit of schoolkids

WITH the school session resuming today, the fast boat service for foot passengers to cross the Penang channel will begin at 6.30am instead of 7am.

Penang Port Commission (PPC) chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng said the first trip from the Penang mainland to the island would leave half an hour earlier for the convenience of schoolgoers.

He said that with assistance from Penang Port Sdn Bhd, the waiting area for foot passengers at the Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) had also been moved to the ground floor from the first floor due to the resumption of domestic cruise activities.

"This is much more convenient as foot passengers need not have to

climb up the stairways before boarding the ferries.

"The changes were to ensure that the needs of foot passengers are taken care of at all times," said Tan in a statement.

The third term of the 2021/2022 school session had to be postponed by a week because of the recent floods, with schools in Group A beginning classes yesterday and those in Group B today.

Group A refers to the states of Johor, Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu.

Group B comprises the states of Selangor, Melaka, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Penang, Sabah, Sarawak, and the three Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Labuan and Putrajaya.

Tan also said upgrading works of Raja Tun Uda Ferry Terminal on Penang island and Sultan Abdul Halim Ferry Terminal in Butterworth were going on as planned.

"The Federal Government has disbursed RM15mil of the total RM30mil to PPSB for the purchase of five new ferries, which will carry pedestrians and two-wheelers.

"The balance of RM15mil will be disbursed this year.

"With the disbursement of the amount for the ferries by the Federal Government and the upgrading of the ferry terminal, a modern and more efficient service can be provided for the people," he said.



Penang's fast boat ferries in operation. — Filepic.