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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bukit Beruntung bus commuters to save more than 1 hour with newly launched BET6

PUTRAJAYA: The Ministry of Transport has launched and opened Bus Expressway Transit 6 (BET 6) on 1 June 2011, plying the Bukit Sentosa Satu - Central Market (Pasar Seni) route, enabling bus commuters from Bukit Beruntung and its surrounding areas to save up to 1 hour 10 minutes of travel time to Kuala Lumpur.

By using the PLUS Highway, buses will take a shorter journey time to reach its destination as they now take routes that have lighter traffic. It used to take bus commuters 3 hours just to travel from Bukit Beruntung to Kuala Lumpur using the old route via Tanjung Malim to Rawang and then to change bus from Rawang to KL.

The new route which will now approximately take only 1 hour 20 minutes of travel time begins from Bukit Sentosa Satu Terminal - Bukit Beruntung Toll - Lebuhraya PLUS - Jalan Duta Toll - Kelab Selangor - Masjid Jamek LRT before arriving at Central Market. For the route back, it will pass the same stops except for stop 3 at Jalan Parlimen instead of stopping at Kelab Selangor. The bus fare for BET6 is RM4.00.

BET6 is the latest addition to the BET system under the Government Transformation Programme's (GTP) Urban Public Transport (UPT) National Key Results Area (NKRA) to improve urban public transport where buses utilise existing highways to link heavily populated areas and the city centre.

"With the newly launched BET6, commuters are expected to experience more reliable and smoother ride as the new route reduces journey time, provide comfort, easy accessibility

and connectivity," said the Ministry of Transport lead NKRA coordinator Ruhaizah Mohamed Rashid.

A total of six buses, three in the morning and three in the evening, are now mobilised to ply the BET6 route. The new BET6 route will be operated by Setara Jaya Sdn Bhd (SJ Bus), which also operates BET5.

Since the launch of BET5 in October last year, ridership from Bandar Tasik Puteri via Country Homes in Rawang to Kuala Lumpur has increased two fold to record 8,390 total ridership within its first 5 months of operation. There were only 43 passengers daily when BET 5 was first launched by end of October 2010 but tripled to 138 passengers daily in March 2011. The number is expected to increase further.

Similar improvement in ridership is expected to be seen for the newly launched BET6. For example on BET5, passengers from Bandar Tasik Puteri and Country Homes in Rawang are today arriving faster at their work place in Kuala Lumpur using the PLUS Highway. Traveling time from Bandar Tasik Puteri, Country Homes into the PLUS Highway exiting Jalan Duta Toll into Jalan Kuching, Jalan Sultan Ismail, SOGO and finally Central Market has also been shortened by an average 1 hour to 1 hour and 15 minutes.

"After seven months in operation, BET5 has proven to be successful in the government's effort to improve public transportation and increase ridership under the GTP," mentioned Ruhaizah

To accommodate the rising demand, separate buses are now provided every morning in Bandar Tasik Puteri as well as in Country Homes. Instead of stopping in Country Homes to pick up passengers, buses from Bandar Tasik Puteri can now proceed directly into the highway and then to the city.

This initiative is seen as significant by bus commuters from both areas on the BET5 route. Passengers from Bandar Tasik Puteri get to save an additional 20 minutes of their travel time while passengers from Country Homes no longer have to worry about not being able to get seats in the bus in the morning. By using separate buses, passengers from Bandar Tasik Puteri now need to pay RM3.50 whilst those from Country Homes, to pay only RM3.00

New Schedule and Journey Time for both Bandar Tasik Puteri and Country Homes (BET5)

From/ETD	To/ETA	Travel Time	Time Saved
Tasik Puteri	Kuala Lumpur	1 hour	1 hour 15 mins
6.15am	7.15am		
Country Homes	Kuala Lumpur	55 minutes	1 hour
6.15am	7.10am		
Country Homes	Kuala Lumpur	1 hour 20	1 hour 20 minutes
6.30am	7.50am	minutes	
Central Market	Tasik Puteri & Country Homes	1 hour 20	1 hour 20 minutes
5.50pm	7.10pm	minutes	
Central Market	Tasik Puteri & Country Homes	1 hour 55	1 hour 15 minutes
6.25pm (Peak Hour)	8.20pm	minutes	
Central Market	Tasik Puteri & Country Homes	1 hour 55	1 hour 20 minutes
7.00pm	8.55pm	minutes	

"The improvement we are seeing with BET5 shows that the public are supportive of the GTP and more commuters are feeling the change in terms of time saved, shorter waiting time and smoother journey provided by the BET5 system.

"Moreover, we are happy that SJ Bus has taken its own initiative to pick up passengers more efficiently during the rush morning schedule as a commitment to continuously improve their service to passengers," said Ruhaizah.

Apart from significant improvement seen in BET5, the Ministry of Transport also recorded tremendous achievements in BET 1 and BET 2 which were launched on January 12, 2010 as well as BET 3 and BET 4, launched on January 21, 2010.

Ridership for BET 1-4 posted a 78 percent increase (1,970 ridership daily) from 2,688 ridership per day in Q1 of 2010 to 4,638 ridership per day in Q1, 2011.

The UPT NKRA intends to make the Klang Valley's bus services more convenient and accessible to all commuters. The BET service total ridership is expected to contribute a sizeable number of ridership towards achieving the 25 percent public transport modal share target by 2012.

For further information on BET5 and BET6 services, call Setara Jaya at 03-4021 4566	or
03-4021 6166.	
