

EXPEDITING JOURNEY TIME

On June 1 this year, the Ministry of Transport (MoT) launched Bus Expressway Transit 6 (BET 6), which enables bus commuters from Bukit Beruntung and its surrounding areas to save up to 1 hour 10 minutes of travel time to Pasar Seni (Central Market) in Kuala Lumpur.

By using the PLUS Expressway, buses will require a shorter journey time to reach its destination. It used to take bus commuters three hours to travel from Bukit Beruntung to Kuala Lumpur using the old route via Tanjung Malim to Rawang (the passengers have to change their buses from Rawang to KL).

Taking about 1 hour 20 minutes of travel time, BET 6 uses the Bukit Sentosa Satu Terminal - Bukit Beruntung Toll - PLUS Expressway - Jalan Duta Toll - Kelab Selangor - Masjid Jamek LRT route before arriving at Central Market. The bus fare for BET6 is RM4.00.

BET6 is the latest addition to the BET system under the UPT NKRA to improve urban public transport where buses use existing highways to link heavily populated areas and the city centre.

A total of six buses – three in the morning and three in the evening – are now mobilised to ply the BET6 route. The new BET 6 route will be operated by Setara Jaya Sdn Bhd, which also operates BET 5.

Since the launch of BET 5 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 five months of operation.

From a mere 43 passengers daily when BET 5 was introduced at the end



of October 2010, the figure has tripled to 138 passengers daily in March 2011. The number is expected to increase further.

Today, passengers from Bandar Tasik Puteri and Country Homes in Rawang are arriving faster at their work place in Kuala Lumpur using the PLUS Expressway. Travelling time from Bandar Tasik Puteri to the Central Market has been shortened by an average 1 hour to 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Apart from the significant improvement seen in BET 5, the MoT has also recorded great achievements in BET 1 and BET 2 (launched on 12 January 2010) as well as BET 3 and BET 4 (launched on 21 January 2010).

Ridership for BET 1 to BET 4 had posted a 78% increase to 4,638 ridership per day in the first quarter

of 2011 from 2,688 ridership per day during the same period last year. The four routes include:

- Kota Damansara to KL Sentral and Central Market via the Penchala and Kerinchi Link,
- Bandar Sungai Long to KL Sentral and Central Market via the Grand Saga Expressway,
- Subang Mewah USJ to KL Sentral and Central Market via the New Pantai Expressway, and
- Taman Sri Muda, Shah Alam to KL Sentral and Central Market via the New Pantai Expressway.

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% public transport modal share target by 2012. 