

Tee Keat wants ferry operators to buck up

LABUAN: The Ministry of Transport is monitoring ferry services throughout the country and a directive will be issued soon to the Marine Department to ensure such services provide safety and comfort and have the required maintenance features.

Transport Minister, Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat, said the Ministry wants quality ferry services and the Marine Department would have to play its role to ensure such services meet expected standards.

He said ferry service is an important form of public transportation and it should meet public aspiration.

He added that the Ministry was regularly receiving feedback on ferry services nationwide through e-mail and SMSes and advised its staff to "*turun padang*" and inspect for themselves.

The quality of ferry service would be part of the Ministry's Key Performance Index (KPI), he said, adding that gone was the era of monopoly and instead there should be healthy competition so that there would be improvement.

He warned that the Ministry would not hesitate to revoke the licence of a ferry operator if it kept receiving complaints from the public about poor service. - **Sohan Das**
