

# Free bus service in Johor

## INTER-CITY TRAVEL:

30 buses to ply 15 priority routes from next month

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**S**OME 50,000 travel pass cards for Bas Muafakat Johor are expected to be snapped up by commuters before the launch of the service by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin at the Larkin bus terminal on April 22.

The Bas Muafakat Johor, an inter-city free bus service, which is scheduled for a soft launch on April 1, might be increased if the response from the public is encouraging.

Johor Public Transportation chief executive director Suhairi Hashim said 30 buses will be plying 15 service routes in four localities — Johor Baru City Council (six routes), and three routes each in Johor Baru Central Municipal Council, Pasir Gudang Municipal Council and Kulai



**Commuters with their Bas Muafakat Johor travel pass cards at the bus service's road show programme at the Kulai Bus Terminal in Johor Baru yesterday. Pic by Hairul Anuar Rahim**

Municipal Council.

Suhairi said the programme was an initiative by the state government to help those living near here to cope with the rising cost of living.

"This is an alternative way for people living in Johor Baru to get around without having to fork out travelling expenses," said Suhairi at the Bas Muafakat Johor inaugural road show at the Kulai Bus Terminal

here yesterday.

Suhairi said the 15 designated routes encompass housing and school areas. Each municipality will have two or three service routes, with an interval bus service between 30 to 60 minutes per trip.

Suhairi said if the feedback from commuters is positive, Handal Indah Sdn Bhd, which operates the buses, will increase the services to

meet public demand.

He said the bus service will operate between 6am and 8pm in priority locations and 7am to 7pm at other locations.

"The priority locations are routes in the vicinity of schools to enable schoolchildren to get to their schools on time."

In conjunction with the event, there was a registration drive for the Bas Muafakat travel pass card for commuters.

The registration campaign was launched by Kulai Municipal Council president Abdul Rahman Salleh.

Suhairi said although the bus service was free, commuters still need to have the Bas Muafakat card, which has an annual membership fee of RM10 for adults, senior citizens and the handicapped, and RM5 for children aged 7 to 17, while children under 6 can ride for free.

"Commuters need to swipe their cards at the scanning machine when they board and alight from the bus."

The card can be obtained from registration counters at TJ Mart Kulai and Econsave Senai on April 12 and 13 and at Kulai terminal or RTC Kulai on May 9 and 10.

The public can also register online at [www.basmuafakatjohor.com](http://www.basmuafakatjohor.com)