

Express bus fare increase mulled

KOTA BARU: The government is mulling raising express bus fares to help bus operators and drivers cope with rising operating costs. Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Kamarudin Jaffar said no decision had been made on the matter, despite express bus operators' demand. He said the government sympathised with express bus operators, who had taken on the burden of rising operating costs. Kamarudin was speaking after witnessing the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Konsortium E-Mutiara Berhad (E-Mutiara) and Scania Asia Tenggara here on Friday. E-Mutiara was represented by its executive chairman, Che Ibrahim Che Ismail, while Scania was represented by its managing director, Marie Sjodin Enstrom. Kamarudin said the ministry previously considered raising express bus fares by between 10 and 30 per cent. Last month, he said express bus fares were last raised in 2009 by 31 per cent, and that the ministry was considering making another increase to help express bus operators cope with rising operating costs.

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