

# Labuan taxi drivers want two designated stations

LABUAN: The Labuan Taxi Association has called on the newly-formed Perikatan Nasional government to consider the plight of local taxi drivers here whose daily income has been badly hit for more than four years now.

Its President Mohd Ismail Abdul Rahman appealed to the government and the local authorities to allocate two designated stations for taxi operators at the Labuan Airport and Labuan International Ferry Terminal.

"Our current situation is extremely dire and we find it hard to break even... It would be like pennies from heaven for us to be able to get two or three passengers a day.

"We appeal to the Government to consider our plea as we are struggling to make ends meet with nearly 80 per cent of us still paying up our monthly instalment for our cars and have families to support," he said in a statement Saturday.

Ismail said that having these two hotspot locations designated for local taxi drivers would be a great help to them and ease their burdens.

"The two designated taxi stations will assist taxi operators stay afloat under the current economic climate," he said.

More than 100 taxis are operating in downtown areas and the airport, and the taxi rates here are only between RM15 and RM36 per ride depending on the seven allotted zones across Labuan. The association also lauded the appointment of Tan Sri Annuar Musa as Federal Territories Minister and Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong as Transport Minister.

"We hope the two senior Ministers will come down to Labuan to see themselves how the taxi operators are struggling every day to make ends meet for our families and the car monthly instalment," Ismail said.