



Before the break of dawn, children from various PPR flats are ready for school, as they wait to board the new free school bus service provided by DBKL. Photo: AZHAR MAHFUF/The Star

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# A welcome relief for parents

DBKL's free school bus service helps residents in PPR and PPA save money

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Huddled together under umbrellas, parents were still upbeat if not slightly puzzled by the free school bus system initiated by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

The service provided for residents of people's housing schemes (PPR) and public housing units (PPA) started on Jan 3 amidst some confusion among some parents.

Nevertheless, a little disorder could be overlooked considering the amount parents are able to save because of it, said father of two children Mohd Zawawi Mohd Noor, 38, from PPR Kerinchi.

"The first day was quite chaotic because we were not sure where the bus would stop, which bus was going where and when it would arrive.

"But we did not realise that it had actually arrived on time so my seven-year-old and 13-year-old daughters were able to get on board and reach school before the bell rang.

"It is definitely good luck and an advantage as it costs about RM75 per person every month," he said on being able to save RM150 a



Free buses and mini vans are scheduled to pick up schoolchildren as part of DBKL's initiative.

month.

As the Jalan Pantai Permai 1 and 2 junction near Bangsar South acts as one of the many school bus hubs for neighbouring PPR flats, students and parents squeezed together by the roadside to avoid oncoming traffic along the busy street.

PPR Kerinchi resident Nik Azizah Abdul Aziz, 47, saw her youngest of four children off to school.

"What I really hope for is a designated area for the buses, as well

as a safe place for the children to wait. The buses are parked along the road and this causes traffic congestion," she said, referring to the row of buses along Jalan Pantai Permai 1.

"But it's just the first phase so if all goes well, I heard there will be more buses, which is a good thing for other PPRs as well.

"Last year, I paid RM70 and transportation was going to be increased to RM80, so the free bus is a blessing.

"As for the timing, the bus came

as scheduled so my daughter managed to reach class for her first day of secondary school with time to spare," she added.

However, that option is unavailable to Form Six students such as Darshini S from PPR Seri Anggerik, who has to take two public buses from Jalan Klang Lama to go to Victoria Institute in Jalan Hang Tuah.

Mother-of-three V Selva said public transportation for Darshini her youngest daughter, amount to approximately RM140 month