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public security, law and order
SRI LANKA

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LP

DEFENDERS OF THE NATION

TTC

Department of Government Information

Touch travel pass for private bus passengers

Ridma Dissanayake and Anushika Ranadewa

Immediate measures are to be taken to provide free pre-paid cards also known as touch travel pass to travel in private buses for members of the Divi Neguma national programme, Economic Development Minister Basil Rajapaksa said yesterday.

The minister was addressing the introducing ceremony of passengers' pre-paid card for travelling in private buses at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI).

The Western Province Passenger Transport Authority launched the pre-paid card system for passengers travelling in private buses with the support of People's Bank, Dialog Axiata and Access Group.



Western Provincial Council Transport Minister Upali Kodikara, Lanka Private Bus Owners' Association Chairman Gemunu Wijeratne and representatives from People's Bank and Dialog Axiata symbolically handing over the Touch Travel Pass to Minister Basil Rajapaksa.



The pilot project of this project will commence on the 138 bus route from today.

Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal said developing the public service has become one of the main objectives of the Mahinda Chinthana future vision. "The pre-paid card system is another step forward under the objectives of the Mahinda Chinthana," he said.

Lanka Private Bus Owner's Association Chairman Gemunu Wijeratne said this is a historic event in the private bus transport service.

He said this new card system will be implemented islandwide by the end of this year. "This new system will banish the ransom procedure secretly functioning in the private bus sector. It will save Rs120 million for bus owners per month," Wijeratne said.

Construction, Engineering Services, Housing and Common Amenities Deputy Minister Lasantha Alagiyawanna, Western Provincial Council Transport Minister Upali Kodikara, Passenger Transport Authority Chairman Amila Ranmandala, Finance and Planning Ministry's Director-General in charge of the Department of Development Finance D.S.Jayaweera, Dialog Axiata PLC Director (Group Projects) Dr Hans Wijesooriya and guests were present.

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