

# Ensuring world-class roads a top priority for Works Ministry

MOST motorists perceive that all repairs or maintenance of federal roads is the responsibility of the Works Ministry alone — this is not true.

To note, there are 16,500km of federal roads belonging to the ministry as declared by the Works Minister under the Federal Roads Act 1959.

The main federal roads are tagged with route numbers from No 1 to No 228.

As efforts to ensure all federal roads are always in good condition and maintenance works on these roads are done efficiently and systematically, the ministry has privatised such works to eight concessionaires from 2001 in Peninsular Malaysia and 2003 in Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan.

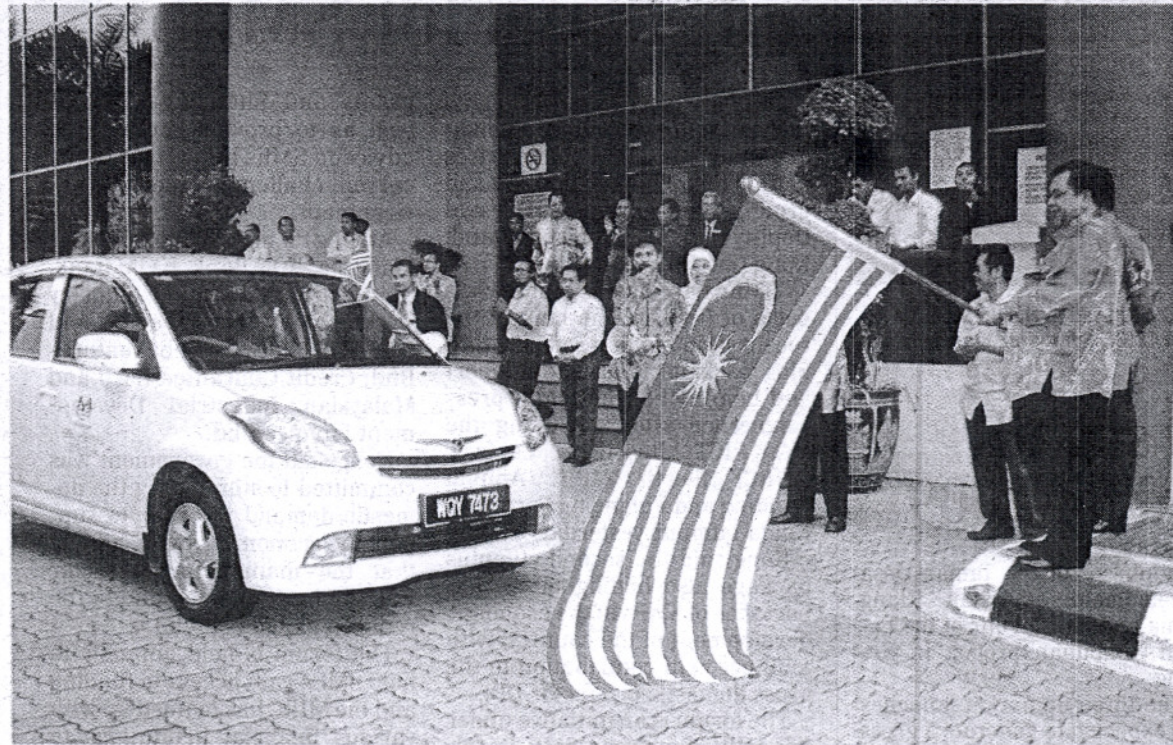
The privatisation agreement to maintain and repair federal roads was given to these companies for a period of 15 years under the watchful eyes of the ministry.

“Without doubt, sometimes misunderstandings arise among the public on who actually bears the responsibility to maintain federal roads,” said Works Ministry secretary-general Dato’ Sri Dr Abdul Munit Kasmin.

In 2008, a total budget of RM642 million was approved for road maintenance, with RM466 million allocated for privatisation works and RM176 million for departmental works.

The works include patching potholes/ pavement, grading road shoulder/ maintenance of bridge and culverts, drainage and routine inspections.

It also includes monitoring of periodical or emergency works



Abdul Munit flagging off participants of the Federal Road Expedition.

such as ensuring that the traffic management flowing system is functional, placing signboards and emergency cones, and monitoring of confusing signboards.

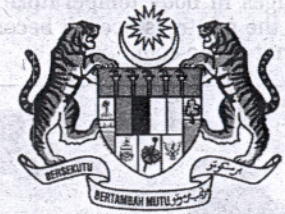
“We want to ensure the federal

roads are in good condition and does not bring harm to users,” he said, noting that any complaints should include the route number for immediate action.

To show that the Works Ministry

is committed in its vision to make federal roads in Malaysia world-class quality roads, a programme called “Federal Road Expedition” was launched on April 18, 2008.

The expedition, which was



Ministry of Works Malaysia

mooted by Abdul Munit, involved a journey to all privatisation zones through major federal roads in the country.

It covered three zones namely South Peninsula, East/ Central Peninsula and North Peninsula. Zones in Sabah and Sarawak were also covered before the end of 2008.

“The Federal Road Expedition is to enhance knowledge among Work Ministry staff of various levels as the owner of federal roads.

“At the same time, it was also meant to monitor maintenance work on federal roads by concessionaires,” Abdul Munit said.

He added that among the observations were to monitor routine works by the concessionaires such as ensuring that grass was cut not more than four inches on the 16th of every month, there were no potholes on the road surface and the drainage system is always functional.

The expedition will continue to be among the Work Ministry’s main agenda for 2009. At present, the expedition is continuing its path in Perak.

“Our aim is to make the conditions of federal roads in the country on par with the quality of highways,” he said.