

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES IN KOTA KINABALU: AN ASSESSMENT BY QUALBUS MODEL

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DECEMBER 2012

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First, I praise and thank Almighty God for all the strength and ability that

made this project paper a reality.

My sincere thanks to my Advisor, Mr. Franklin Hazley Lai for his enormous

suggestions, invaluable guidance, advice, encouragement, understanding that always

make me feel supported and input that enabled me to successfully complete my

Project Paper MKT 662 entitled "Public Transport Services in Kota Kinabalu: An

Assessment by Qualbus Model" is one of the many hurdles in life that one must go

through and that I can do.

Special thanks also go to Mr Kalvin Liau, the Head Unit of Transportation and

Traffic of Kota Kinabalu City Hall who allowed me access to some of the more

important information. Also, I extend my gratitude to Mr Saiman Anggak, KKCH's

Engineer, for his valuable time and expertise. Not forgetting to all the respondents

who took their time in answering the questionnaires and my colleagues' children who

helped me to distribute questionnaires to the respondents at the site. I thank you all.

Finally, I would like to extend my special thanks to my husband and children.

Thank you so much for the understanding and support rendered to me in completing

this project paper. I deeply wish to pay highest tribute to my mother who passed

away in December who supported me although she was in pain to support and

encourage me to proceed in my study where I finally reached to an end of my study

and advised me to be dedicated in my study.

Thank you so much to all. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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ABSTRACT

Bus services can be considered as the cheapest public transportation modes. The services should be expanded in order to make it competitive with other land public transport. This study entitled, "Public transport services in Kota Kinabalu: An assessment by QUALBUS model" was conducted among customers of city bus services in Kota Kinabalu City. The purpose of the research is to determine the satisfaction of customers towards the five dimensions of service quality as well as to determine the relationships between the five dimensions of service quality with customer satisfaction. This study used a descriptive and quantitative approach with survey method to gather information. A total of 370 respondents were selected using convenience sampling to fill up the questionnaires. The questionnaire was developed based on QUALBUS scale that was used in previous researches (Eboli and Mazulla, 2007; Muthupandian & Vijayakumar, 2012; Perez et al., 2007; Tan et al., 2012). The result of the study showed that the overall customer satisfaction for public buses services is low. Satisfaction for reliability and receptivity was also low but for assurance, empathy and tangibility satisfaction was moderate. All of the dimensions of service quality: tangibility, reliability, receptivity, assurance and empathy were significantly correlated to customer satisfaction. This study proposed that further research should include other routes of the public buses in Kota Kinabalu City so that a more comprehensive understanding of the public buses service quality is attained.