

## **ABSTRACT**

**Thesis Title : Decentralization of Public Services in the Local Government of Thailand : A Case Study of the Bus Transportation System as a Decentralized Government Special District in Metropolitan and Suburban Areas.**

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A public service, such as public transportation, aims to serve the needs of the public living in the metropolitan and suburban areas in each community and is governed by law written by the authorized administrative body. It is a fundamental necessity that the administration should operate as a welfare state and it must be supported by law for the benefit of the public.

Public transportation, i.e. buses, is a service enterprise which from the perspective of authority and duty should be operated the local administration. The large size of the enterprise service requires large amounts of money, together with advanced technology for its operation. The service encourages people in the community to participate in its operation and thus promotes the practice of democracy.

Untill today,Public transportation has been entirely operated by the State. The structure of its operation is somewhat contrary to the concept of decentralization and allowing local authority to provide public utilities to the local entity. The particular government agency may not understand the nature of problems existing within an operation better than locals, because at present, the system is not only utilized by residents of Bangkok, but by many persons living in surrounding areas. Since some local administrative acts have not already included the rule of private special districts in the operation of public services, it would now be appropriate to provide for such agencies to allow local authorities to participate in a special district to provide public transportation jointly with the State.