

BUS-MAHATHIR

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(P)
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 26 (BERNAMA)--DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY THAT THE FARES FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN MALAYSIA WAS ONE OF THE LOWEST IN THE WORLD.

THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED THE APPLICATION OF TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO INCREASE THE FARES.

HE ADDED THAT THE NEW FARES WOULD NOT BE A BURDEN TO COMMUTERS FROM OTHER PLACES BECAUSE THE INCREASE WAS ONLY FIVE CENTS OR 10 CENTS FOR THE WHOLE JOURNEY.

IN KUALA LUMPUR, AN INCREASE OF FIVE CENTS FOR THE FIRST MILE WAS LAVIED BECAUSE BUSES COULD NOT RUN ON SCHEDULE DUE TO TRAFFIC JAMS, RESULTING IN LOSSES TO BUS COMPANIES CONCERNED.

HOWEVER, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MAIN CONDITION WHICH SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY BUS COMPANIES WAS TO IMPROVE THEIR SERVICE.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE ACTION IF THE COMPANIES DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE CONDITION, HE ADDED. --BERNAMA MORE

2031/MD

BUS - MAHATHIR @ KUALA LUMPUR

IN A STATEMENT, THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND UTILITIES, DATUK HAJI ABDUL GHANI GILONG, SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT IN ORDER TO HAVE AN EFFICIENT AND PROPERLY RUN PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO SERVE THE PUBLIC, THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO ASK THE OPERATORS AND PUBLIC TO SACRIFICE A LITTLE.

HE ADDED THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL LOOKING INTO OTHER MEANS TO HELP, THE PUBLIC SERVICE TRANSPORT OPERATORS WERE REQUIRED TO IMPROVE THEIR SERVICES, SUCH AS REPLACING THEIR OLD VEHICLES.

+WITH THIS INCREASE, BUS OPERATORS HAVE TO PROVIDE MORE REGULAR SERVICES, BETTER COACHES AND PROPERLY MAINTAINED BUSES AND TAXIS FOR THE PUBLIC+, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE REQUESTS OF BUS OPERATORS AND AT THE SAME TIME SAFEGUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC. --BERNAMA 2035/MD