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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 28 (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD STRESSED TODAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT COMPROMISE ON MEASURES THAT ARE NECESSARY TO REDUCE ROAD ACCIDENTS.

+THE GOVERNMENT TAKES A SERIOUS VIEW OF THE ROAD SAFETY PROBLEM AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING THAT ENFORCEMENT STEPS CONTINUE AND ARE ADHERED TO BY THE PUBLIC,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF TRAFFIC LAWS SUCH AS THE ROAD TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT, POLICE AND TRAFFIC WARDENS MUST CONTINUE TO ENSURE A HEALTHY SITUATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORTATION.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WAS OPENING A THREE-DAY SEMINAR FOR TRANSPORT ENGINEERS HERE ORGANISED BY THE MALAYSIAN TRANSPORT ENGINEERING INSTITUTION.

HE URGED TRANSPORT OPERATORS TO PLAY THEIR ROLE IN HELPING TO BRING DOWN THE ACCIDENT RATE SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT NEED ONLY WIELD THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF ENFORCEMENT POWERS. — BERNAMA MORE 1415/AZ

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MAHATHIR @ KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE MAIN REASON FOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND HIGH ACCIDENT RATE WAS THAT THE BUILDING OF ROADS COULD NOT KEEP UP WITH THE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC VOLUME.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES UP TO JUNE THIS YEAR WAS 1.9 MILLION, COMPARED WITH 605,362 IN 1969 — A 214 PER CENT JUMP IN 10 YEARS.

THE INCREASE, HE SAID, SHOWED THAT THE COUNTRY HAD GROWN AND DEVELOPED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED ABOUT \$3,000 MILLION UNDER THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN TO DEVELOP THE ROAD TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA.

PROGRAMMES WERE DIRECTED AT WIDENING, IMPROVING AND REPAIRING MAIN ROADS, HE SAID.

ON TRANSPORTATION, HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROVIDED A ROAD NETWORK THAT WAS GENERALLY ORDERLY AND SAFE FOR ROADUSERS. — BERNAMA 1418/AZ