

0134

U E650 AAE  
MAHATHIR - ACCIDENTS  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 30 (BERNAMA) -- THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON ROAD SAFETY, WHICH HELD ITS FIRST MEETING HERE TODAY HAS SET A TARGET OF REDUCING ROAD ACCIDENTS BY 30 PER CENT FROM THE PRESENT RATE BY THE YEAR 2,000.

PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, WHO CHAIRED THE MEETING SAID THE GOVERNMENT FELT THE OBJECTIVE WAS REALISTIC AND THAT \$20 MILLION WOULD BE SPENT EACH YEAR FOR THE PURPOSE.

+ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE PEOPLE WHO REGARD THE TARGETED PERCENTAGE REDUCTION AS NOT THAT BIG, EXPERIENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES SHOWS IT IS DIFFICULT TO REDUCE ACCIDENTS,+ HE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING.

-- MORE

1300MST 30 04 90

0139

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MAHATHIR - ACCIDENTS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THOSE PRESENT AT THE MEETING, WHICH TOOK MORE THAN TWO HOURS WERE TRANSPORT MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK, INFORMATION MINISTER, DATUK MOHAMED RAHMAT, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTER, DATUK NAPSIAH OMAR AND FEDERAL TRAFFIC BRANCH CHIEF, ACP HAJI KAMARUDDIN HAMZAH.

ACCORDING TO HAJI KAMARUDDIN, THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS LAST YEAR WAS 75,626, IN WHICH 3,090 PEOPLE WERE KILLED. THE CABINET COMMITTEE WAS FORMED ON APRIL 4. -- MORE

1312MST 30 04 90

0141

U E653 AAE  
MAHATHIR - ACCIDENTS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE WOULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF THE PEOPLE GAVE THEIR CO-OPERATION AND UNDERSTOOD THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITIES.

+IT IS DEFINITE THAT THE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL TO SOME EXTENT BE A BURDEN BUT THEY NEED TO SACRIFICE.

+IF WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO SACRIFICE IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO SUCCEED IN REDUCING ACCIDENTS,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN MIGHT NOT BE POPULAR TO THE PEOPLE BUT THEY HAD TO BE IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC.

THE GOVERNMENT FELT THE ROAD ACCIDENT RATE IN THE COUNTRY WAS TOO HIGH AND IMMEDIATE STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION, HE SAID. -- MADE

1316MST 30 04 90

D166

R E657 AAE  
MAHATHIR - ACCIDENTS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID A STUDY WOULD BE MADE TO HAVE MANDATORY PAYMENT OF COMPOUND TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO PAY UP RATHER THAN BRINGING THE CASES TO COURT WHICH WAS TIME CONSUMING AND INCURRED EXPENDITURE.

AT PRESENT THERE WERE ABOUT 88,000 TRAFFIC CASES IN COURT WHICH HAD NOT BEEN TRIED, HE SAID.

+THIS MEANS THAT EACH NEW CASE MAY HAVE TO WAIT FOR YEARS BEFORE THE COURT GIVES ITS JUDGMENT,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE PRESENT RATE OF COMPOUND WAS SMALL ADDING THAT THERE WERE THOSE CHARGED WITH TRAFFIC OFFENCES CAUSING DEATHS BEING FINED ONLY \$1,000 AND THAT OF CASES BROUGHT TO COURT WHERE THE COST OF PROCEEDINGS WAS HIGHER THAN THE FINE IMPOSED.

A STUDY WOULD ALSO BE MADE ON WHETHER THOSE WHO GAVE WRONG ADDRESSES WHEN ISSUED WITH SUMMONSES WOULD BE DEEMED AS COMMITTING AN OFFENCE, HE SAID. -- MORE

1419MST 30 04 90

D180

R E659 AAE  
MAHATHIR - ACCIDENTS 5 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID TO REMIND DRIVERS OF THE SPEED LIMIT AND DANGERS ON ROADS, MORE SIGNPOSTS WOULD BE PUT UP AND SPEED WARNING LIMIT WOULD BE PAINTED ON THE ROADS.

MORE CAMERAS TO DETECT THOSE DRIVING DANGEROUSLY, WOULD BE INSTALLED BESIDES INTENSIFYING PATROLLING ON HIGHWAYS, SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

DIVIDERS WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED ON WINDING ROADS WHICH WOULD ALSO BE WIDENED, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO IMPOSE STIFFER PENALTIES LIKE REVOKING DRIVING LICENCES.

POLICE PERSONNEL AND THAT OF THE ROAD TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MINISTRY WOULD BE INCREASED ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS, HE SAID.

THE SPEED WARNING DEVICE FOR HEAVY VEHICLES IMPLEMENTED PREVIOUSLY WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AGAIN AND THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE EQUIPMENT USED WERE TAMPER-PROOF. -- MORE

1511MST 30 04 90

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R E661 AAE  
MAHATHIR - ACCIDENTS 6 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE TOLL RATE IN OTHER COUNTRIES TO FIX A MORE SUITABLE RATE TO ENCOURAGE BUILDING OF GOOD ROADS.

THE GOVERNMENT ALSO PLANNED TO ABOLISH THE IMPORT DUTY ON TACHOMETERS, SO THAT HEAVY VEHICLE OWNERS COULD INSTALL SUCH EQUIPMENT AND MAKE THEIR OWN EVALUATION OF THEIR DRIVERS.

THERE WOULD BE MORE WEIGH BRIDGES TO ENSURE THAT LORRIES WERE NOT OVERLOADED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HOPED THE PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVES AND NOT ENTERTAIN THOSE WHO TRIED TO BE NEGATIVE ABOUT ITS EFFORTS ADDING THAT HE BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES WOULD BE TURNED INTO A POLITICAL ISSUE TO SERVE THE POLITICAL INTERESTS OF CERTAIN GROUPS. -- BERNAMA

1512MST 30 04 90