

PM: You must pay for efficient transport

KUALA LUMPUR: The public must be willing to pay reasonably if it wants to have a more efficient transport system in the city, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"If you want it free or cheap, it is out of the question. You can't have an efficient system that is cheap but you can have an efficient system that is reasonably priced," he said after attending a

briefing on the city's transport system at City Hall.

Dr Mahathir said the Government would subsidise the cost of transportation here but it could not subsidise too much because other areas also needed development funds.

Among the ministers who attended the meeting were Datuk Dr Yusof Nor (Public Enterprises), Datuk Leo Moggie (Works),

Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu (Energy, Telecommunications and Post) and Mr Law Hieng Ding (Science, Technology and Environment).

Dr Mahathir also said there must only be one bus company operating within the city limits.

However, all the other companies would have a chance to participate in this company, he said, expressing his dissatisfaction over the present traf-

fic system.

"We can't have a central point in which all buses converge such as the Puduraya. This will cause further traffic congestion," he said.

He said there was a possibility that all bus companies in the city would be merged to provide a better system.

Taxi companies would not be involved in this exercise, he said.

A consultant had been

asked to study the city bus system, he said. It would take about three months to complete the study, he added.

On the progress of the monorail system, he said work might start at the end of the year and its first phase would be completed by 1994.

Dr Mahathir also confirmed the re-appointment of Tan Sri Datuk Dr Elyas Omar as the Datuk Bandar for another term.