

CNS9081

R GE 09-09 00160 EG944

eng mes

MAHATHIR ADVISES TAXI SERVICE OPERATORS TO UPGRADE EFFICIENCY

Mahathir-taxi

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister ⁹² ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ ⁸ today advised taxi service operators to improve income through greater efficiency rather than increasing fares.

In countries such as Japan, the people looked for ways to reduce expenditure when costs went up, he told reporters when approached at the Maulidur Rasul gathering at the Dataran Merdeka here.

Many taxi drivers in the Klang Valley, protesting against the government's decision not to allow a requested fare increase, recently resorted to +rest sessions+ by parking their vehicles and refusing to pick up passengers during peak hours in the morning and evening.

Dr Mahathir said taxi service operators should determine why their expenditure went up and seek ways to reduce costs, adding that by upgrading efficiency they would be able to compete with others. -- more

▼09/09/16-06MST

CNS9082

R GE. 09-09 00117 EG945

eng mes

Mahathir-taxi 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He said that fuel was only a small part of the cost of operating a taxi service, adding that the cost covered the price of the vehicle and maintenance.

Replying to reporters' questions, the prime minister said the Cabinet, at its weekly meeting yesterday, did not discuss the application for a taxi fare increase because the Public Enterprises Ministry was still studying the matter.

Dr Mahathir also advised taxi service operators to improve the quality of their service.

+If their service is good, many people will use it. This will be in their own interest,+ he said. -- Bernama

▼09/09/16-09MST