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Mahathir-bus

PLAN TO REVOLUTIONISE BUS SERVICE IN KUALA LUMPUR

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PEKAN, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today disclosed details of a plan that is likely to revolutionise the commuter bus service in Kuala Lumpur.

He said that minibuses, for example, would have a low floor for passengers to board and alight easily.

The ticketing system would be improved with the use of pre-paid or machine-automated tickets which would do away with conductors and save on cost of operation, he told reporters after launching and test-driving the DRB Pinzgauer all-terrain armoured personnel fighting vehicle here.

He also said that stage buses should be operated by a single company as was the case in London and that the design of the vehicles must be similar to those in Europe and Japan.

Dr Mahathir said the Datuk Bandar of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Dr Mazlan Ahmad, would meet the operators of bus companies to discuss the merger of the companies into a single company. -- more

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Mahathir-bus 2 Pekan

The operators would be allowed equity participation in the new company, he said, adding that the quantity of shares would depend on their companies' performance, passenger load, frequency of trips and total mileage.

Similarly, Dr Mahathir said, existing mini bus operators could buy shares in the company which would run the mini bus service.

"We are not robbing the rights of some people and giving them to others ... but with the changing times, we have to upgrade our standard ... we have to accept the situation," he said.

Dr Mahathir also commented on the manner in which some mini bus drivers drove the vehicles, saying they had no regard for traffic regulations.

He said the mini bus service was useful but many owners of the buses themselves did not drive the vehicles though they claimed that was their only source of income. -- more

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Mahathir-bus 3 (last) Pekan

He said the bus would have passed from two to three hands and when it came to the driver, he was usually not a citizen.

On the armoured vehicles, he said the purchase of the vehicles did not constitute an arms race as it was only a government measure to upgrade the use of armed forces' vehicles.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government would send four of the vehicles to Bosnia-Herzegovina for its peacekeeping operations there.

He said 100 units of the vehicles, estimated to cost RM30 million, would be provided to the defence ministry at the end of next month.

The Austrian-made vehicles are assembled by Automotive Manufacturers (M) Sdn Bhd at its factory in the Peramu Industrial Zone here. Automotive Manufacturers is a subsidiary of Diversified Resources Berhad. -- Bernama
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