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Mahathir-traffic

COMMITTEE STUDYING WAYS TO REDUCE NUMBER OF VEHICLES

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KUALA LUMPUR, 18 Jan (Bernama) -- The special committee on the development of Kuala Lumpur is looking into ways to reduce the number of cars coming into the city to ease its longstanding problem of traffic congestion, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the committee felt that there were currently too many vehicles entering the city.

"There is no way we can make sufficient roads and parking lots for these cars, unless we want to convert KL into a parking lot with no building at all," Dr Mahathir told reporters after opening the Pemas Sogo department store here.

He chaired a meeting of the committee yesterday.

It was reported that yesterday's meeting was supposed to make amendments to the Kuala Lumpur Master Plan to ensure that the federal capital's growth was in line with the current development and also to facilitate re-development of certain areas. -- more

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Among the proposals being considered to overcome the traffic problem are car pooling, introduction of a light rail transit system, double tracking of railway tracks and the re-organisation of the public transport system.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, the main campaigner for the car-pooling project, had announced that the government might consider increasing parking fees to encourage people to use public transport.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir called for more efforts to promote Kuala Lumpur as an international shopping destination.

He said it was unfortunate that many foreigners did not know that a lot of goods sold in Malaysia were duty-free and as a result decided to shop elsewhere, like in Singapore, Bangkok and Hong Kong. -- Bernama

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