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Mahathir - Diesel

GOVERNMENT MAY REDUCE ROAD TAX ON DIESEL VEHICLES

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SUNGAI PETANI, 28 Jan (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will consider reducing the road tax on diesel-powered vehicles to encourage the use of such engines which were less polluting.

"Previously we found diesel engines dirty but the present engines using diesel are cleaner and the government wants to encourage the use of the fuel," the Prime Minister told reporters after opening the Prime Granite (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd processing factory here.

He was responding to questions on the proposal to ban two-stroke engine motorcycles because the smoke they emitted was polluting.

Dr Mahathir said the Cabinet proposed to ban two-stroke motorcycles as a measure to curb air pollution.

However, if there were manufacturers who could supply non-polluting two-stroke engines, the government might reconsider imposing the ban. -- more

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Mahathir - Diesel 2 (last) Sungai Petani

The Prime Minister said the government was still considering the ban and no decision had been made.

"The government will not make a decision which will burden the people," he said.

For a start, he said, the government would no longer permit the import of machinery to produce two-stroke engines but existing machinery could continue to be operated.

"We still have factories producing two-stroke engines and the process of phasing out two-stroke motorcycles would take time," he said.

On Wednesday, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment Datuk Law Hieng Ding told motorcycle assemblers to stop new investment for the production of two-stroke engine motorcycles. -- Bernama

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