

S'porean motorists may get to 'own' cars here

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has proposed a "time-sharing" plan to enable Singaporeans to buy cars in Johor and use them for travel in Malaysia.

The aim is to get Singaporeans to own cars jointly with Malaysians in Johor, with the hope of attracting more Singaporean holiday-makers to the peninsula.

Johor Mentri Besar Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin Mohamed Yassin said the Prime Minister said the Government could take advantage of the North-South Expressway to encourage more Singaporeans to travel to Malaysia. "The cars will remain in Johor and the Singaporean co-owners will be allowed to use them whenever they cross over.

"The Prime Minister said we should take advantage of this, especially when many Singaporeans

can afford to buy cars but cannot do so as their government limits the number of cars on the road," he added.

Speaking to newsmen after a dinner hosted by his Selangor counterpart in Shah Alam on Friday, Muhyiddin said he would prepare a working paper on the plan together with Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sa-baruddin Chik.

He said it was likely that a private company or a government agency would undertake the role of buying cars on joint-ownership with Singaporeans.

"The Singaporeans participating in the programme will be asked to pay a portion of the price of the car, perhaps RM10,000 or RM20,000.

"We may also explore other avenues like profit-sharing if the cars are used for rental or commercial purposes when they are not used in Johor," he added.