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Mahathir-Projects

TEMPORARY FREEZE ON NEW HIGH-RISE PROJECTS IN CITY CENTRE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the government has imposed a temporary freeze on new high-rise projects in the city centre while measures are being taken to overcome the traffic problem in the city.

The Prime Minister said that Kuala Lumpur City Hall recently decided not to give approvals to new high-rise projects.

"We would first like to gauge the effectiveness of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and commuter train services in overcoming the traffic problem in the city," he told reporters after launching the Wangsa Maju Foundation here.

Dr Mahathir said that high-rise projects were instead encouraged to be implemented in new growth areas like Wangsa Maju and Bandar Utama Damansara.

He said the government felt that the larger number of high-rise buildings at this time would worsen the traffic situation due to the increase in the population density.

In efforts to reduce traffic congestion, the government was considering to limit the number of vehicles entering the city centre by imposing a levy for vehicles with one or two occupants.

An area price policy might have to be implemented because the car pooling campaign had received very poor response.

"We will impose charges and if there are still many vehicles entering the city centre, we will increase the charges," he said.

At the same time, he said, the government would monitor the public transport system including the LRT, commuter train, taxi and bus services in the city.

"We would like to observe the situation after the LRT. We found that the public are not very keen on using the commuter train services while the trains are not really on time.

"We want the LRT and the commuter trains to make more frequent trips, maybe every 15 minutes so that commuters can be assured that when they arrive at the train or LRT stations, they need not have to wait too long," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government would suggest that suburban commuter train and LRT stations be provided with car parks and shuttle bus service to reduce the number of vehicles entering the city centre.

The implementation of the proposal was being worked out, he added. --  
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