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#### Government plan for Genting road

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Tues. - The Transport Ministry will recommend that the main road leading to the Genting Highlands resort, now a private stretch, be gazetted and put under Federal jurisdiction.

Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam said today this would enable the police and the Road Transport Department to carry out enforcement to reduce speeding and indiscriminate overtaking along the road.

He said the 18-kilometre stretch was deemed private property as it was constructed and maintained by Resorts World Berhad, the resort operator.

"Following the two accidents involving buses last year, both while negotiating bends as they were descending from the resort, the Pahang Road Safety Council has suggested that the road be gazetted."

He was speaking to reporters after visiting the site of both accidents, and a new cable car station.

Also present were Deputy Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Hassan Ariffin, who is also State Road Safety Council chairman, Federal police deputy traffic chief Assistant Commissioner Dell Akbar Khan and senior RTD officers.

Resorts World was represented by its executive vice-president, Justin Tan, senior vice-president (liaison) Datuk Seri N. T. Rajah and other senior management officials.

Resorts World has offered to continue financing the maintenance of the road, costing about RM5 million a year.

In the Dec 30 accident, 27 people were injured, three of them seriously, when the Genting Highlands Transport bus they were travelling in plunged into a ravine at the km4 Jalan Genting Highlands-Kuala Lumpur.

The bus was negotiating a sharp bend when it went out of control and crashed into the concrete embankment before plunging into the ravine.

Fortunately for those on board, the vehicle landed on a canopy of trees about 15 metres from the embankment, preventing the bus from plunging further. In the July 15 incident, 17 people died and 15 were injured when a tour bus ferrying workers of an electronics factory from Johor Baru plunged into a 30-metre ravine at km1 of Jalan Genting Highlands-Kuala Lumpur.

Mohd Ali congratulated Resorts World for introducing the new cable car system, which is to be officially opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Feb 21.

"Once the cable car station commences operations, stage, tour and school buses would be barred from travelling all the way up to the popular holiday resort."

Describing this as a positive move, he said the flow of tourists to the resort by cable car, a service provided free by Resorts World, would ease traffic congestion and help reduce accidents especially those involving buses.

About 10,000 people throng the resort daily. This goes up to 40,000 during the holiday season.

"At present, 133 buses ply the route to the resort daily. The new cable car station will definitely ease congestion," Mohd Ali said.

The multi-million ringgit cable car station, near the Awana horse ranch, will have parking bays for buses and other public amenities.

"Once it begins operations, some 2,000 people can be ferried to the resort every hour," Mohd Ali said, adding that the journey by cable car

would take 10 minutes.

He also said that Resorts World had agreed to erect barricades along the road leading to the resort. The barricades would prevent vehicles from going off the road.

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