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## Intrakota submits plans on easing traffic jams

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Intrakota Consolidated Sdn Bhd last week submitted to the Government proposals on improving the bus service and easing traffic congestion in the city.

Diversified Resources Berhad chairman Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad said today the proposals included having more bus lanes along major roads other than those proposed by City Hall, having bus-stops with proper lay-bys, bus terminals and depots as well as information centres.

"We believe that this can enable the buses to complete their routes in a shorter time and pick up more passengers."

Yahaya was speaking to reporters who approached him at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport after he attended the commemoration of AirAsia's second Boeing 737-700 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim last week directed the relevant government agencies and public transport companies to come up with a solution to ease the traffic congestion in the city within 12 days.

Anwar, who made the directive in his capacity as chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure and Investment, said they had been given until Monday to do this.

The agencies and companies are City Hall, the Public Works Department, Economic Planning Unit, Treasury, Sistem Transit Aliran Ringan Sdn Bhd, KTM Berhad and Intrakota Consolidated.

According to a 1995 City Hall estimate, 1.6 million vehicles move around the city each day.

Replying to a question, Yahaya said Intrakota was promoting the use of fare-cards among bus commuters as it was more convenient than using coins.

It is also to ensure that they pay the exact amount because Intrakota does not return change.

The fare-card has been introduced since Intrakota started its operations but the public responded poorly as most preferred to use coins.

Yahaya said the commuters would not be given their 10-sen change if they inserted RM1 into the ticketing machine.

"It is expensive to introduce a coin-changing machine and this will increase the company's costs," he added.

In Kota Baru, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said longer bus-stops and other amenities would be provided by City Hall in the next two weeks.

He hoped that the facilities and special bus lanes would help ease congestion in the Federal capital.

He said the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure and Investment would meet on Monday to look further into the traffic problems in the city.

"Since the committee's first meeting, some of the decisions made have been implemented, including the bus lanes which came into effect today."

He added that the Government could at this stage help ease traffic congestion but was unable to resolve the problem altogether.

"However, the Government expects the traffic problems in Kuala Lumpur to be resolved in a year or two, especially when the Light Rail Transit System is fully operational," he told reporters after opening Kelantan's festive season fair price sale in Kateroh today.

He said the first phase of the LRT had been completed and was already in operation.

"The second and third phases of the LRT system are still in the construction stage.

"When completed, they will help put an end to the traffic congestion," he said.

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