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RTD man who was rude to cabbie reprimanded

MALACCA, Fri. - The Road Transport Department enforcement officer who verbally abused taxi driver Sau Soon Chye for stopping at a no-stop zone has been reprimanded, department director Abdul Rakib Ahmad said today.

Rakib, who expressed regret over the incident, said disciplinary action had been taken against the officer.

He did not go into details but added that the department would not tolerate such rudeness.

Yesterday, Sau claimed that he was abused by the officer when he stopped to drop a passenger at a no-stop zone near a shopping complex in Jalan Tun Mamat on April 22.

The officer, he alleged, said: "If I give you RM1 million to kill (Dr) Mahathir, will you do that?"

Sau, who lodged a report at the Melaka Tengah police station, said it was the officer's rudeness and disrespect for the Prime Minister that upset him most.

When contacted by the New Straits Times, Rakib said:

"I have also warned department staff to practice courtesy when dealing with members of the public and to listen to their grouses."

In a related development, Melaka Tengah Taxi Operators and Hired Cars Association chairman Mohd Saleh Lajis said conflicts between taxi drivers and Government agencies like the Road Transport Department could be solved through mutual understanding and respect.

He added that outburst of temper and verbal abuse would be detrimental to the department's image.

"What is more important is patience and understanding on both sides in solving the matter," Mohd Saleh said, adding that the relationship between his association and RTD had been good.

Describing the incident, Mohd Saleh said, it was an isolated case that should have been resolved amicably.

"There is no reason why it should be highlighted in the newspaper."

He added that the association would work closely with the department to project the good image of both parties.

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