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Transport charges won't be raised, say lorrymen

Chong Chee Seong

MUAR, Tues. - Lorry operators will not increase transport charges despite the rise in the cost of spare parts and operating costs due to the ringgit's depreciation.

Pan-Malaysia Lorry Owners' Association deputy president Er Sui See said today its 10,000 members who controlled a fleet of more than 100,000 lorries would rather absorb the higher costs than raise charges.

"This is our show of patriotism at a time when the country is beset with economic problems.

"We don't want to increase transport charges as this would spark off a chain reaction and lead to other price increases."

Er said the association was fully behind Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and this was a positive response to his call to all sectors of the economy not to hike prices.

He said although members were suffering from a drastic slowdown in the transport industry, they were prepared to make sacrifices for the good of the country.

"We would rather tighten our belt and absorb the losses than increase charges.

"We will advise all our lorry drivers, attendants and their families to heed Dr Mahathir's advice and be prudent in their spending," he said, noting that prices of tyres and spare parts had gone up by between 15 and 30 per cent since September.

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