

29/01/1998

Dr Mahathir `terrified' by `suicidal' attitude of some motorcyclists

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - In describing their actions as "suicidal", Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the manner in which some motorcyclists ride has "terrified" him.

"I myself am terrified when I see the reckless and irresponsible manner in which some motorcyclists handle their machines.

"It's simply madness and it is tantamount to suicide," he told reporters at the MCA Open House when asked to comment on the increase in the number of deaths from road accidents.

Twenty-three people died on Tuesday - the seventh day of Ops Statik - bringing the death toll to 118 which is an increase of 14.56 per cent from the 103 fatalities recorded on the first seven days of Ops Statik last year.

Of those killed, 68, or 57.63 per cent, were motorcyclists and pillion riders. Others killed included six pedestrians and four cyclists.

Dr Mahathir said motorists and motorcyclists should not exceed the speed limit and added that the manner in which some of them handled their machines showed that their actions were deliberate.

Dr Mahathir said he was very sad over the increase in the number of accidents and deaths on the roads and advised people to be more careful and patient in wanting to go home for the festive periods.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the Government had taken all measures to prevent road accidents.

"But what can we do if some people insist on killing themselves by blatantly driving recklessly on the road where the volume of traffic naturally increases during festive seasons.

"Some motorcyclists do not realise that their parents are waiting anxiously for them to return home for family re-unions during festive periods."

* SEE ALSO PAGE 7

(END)