

05 DEC 1998

Accidents

REDUCTION IN FATAL ACCIDENTS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN, SAYS LING

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Efforts by the authorities to reduce accidents and fatalities have produced some encouraging results with the number of fatal accidents dropping by 7.1 per cent from January to October this year compared to the same period last year.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today 4,738 fatal accidents occurred during that period last year compared to 4,400 cases until October this year.

Speaking at the opening of Motorsports '98 Kuala Lumpur Exhibition in Subang, he said in the corresponding period, the fatalities due to road accidents also dropped by 6.9 per cent from 5,232 last year to 4,869 this year.

"Since motorcyclists made up 60 per cent of the total number of fatalities, the reduction of fatality rate show that road safety campaigns, especially the multimedia road safety campaigns targeted at motorcyclists over the past one year, have reached the targeted groups," said Dr Ling who represented Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The nine-day event, held at the former Terminal 1 of the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport now called the International Trade and Exhibition Centre, Subang (ITECS), is organised by Le Proton Exhibitions.

This is the first time that the former international airport is used for exhibition purposes and when fully completed, ITECS will have 34,400 sq m total indoor exhibition space and 130,000 sq m outdoor exhibit area.

The project is undertaken by Malaysia Airports Berhad (MAB) via its subsidiary Malaysia Airports Management and Technical Services Sdn Bhd.

In another development, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Sabbaruddin Chik, who was present at the function, said Malaysia Airports must make early preparations for the Formula One (F-1) Grand Prix in Sepang next year.

He told reporters that the people concerned should come up with attractive packages to enable F-1 enthusiasts to visit tourist attractions in the country apart from watching the race.

Malaysia Airports is the organiser of the prestigious race.

The minister said the Sepang circuit, costing some RM300 million, should also be promoted for other races and events.

-- BERNAMA

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