

27 OCT 1999

Mustapa-Taxi

MOST CABBIES SUPPORT GOVERNMENT, SAYS MINISTER

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- The majority of taxi drivers support the government and are thankful to it for restoring the country's economy, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today.

"Today it's clear that the majority of taxi rivers love the country and are grateful for the benefits they enjoy.

"And today they can say thank you to the prime minister and the government for all the things that have been done for them, especially in reviving the country's economy and bringing calm to the country," he told reporters after the "Syabas Malaysia" (Congratulations Malaysia) car sticker launching ceremony.

The sticker for taxis, hire cars and limousines was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department.

Mustapa said the ceremony was historic as it showed that the majority of taxi drivers were with the government and only a small group opposed it.

The minister also announced the setting up of a consultative council to handle problems relating to the services provided by taxis, hire cars and limousines.

He said the council would be chaired by him with Deputy Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Idris Jusof as his deputy. Its members include representatives of the Road Transport Department, police, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Puspakom, and taxi operators and taxi drivers associations.

Mustapa also said that taxi operators in the Klang Valley would be required to follow an uniform set of conditions in their agreements with taxi drivers with effect from Dec 1.

The conditions include a minimum annual leave of 12 days for the drivers, maximul daily rental of RM40 for Proton Iswara cars and RM45 for Proton Wira cars, and a standard five-year lease period.

Taxi operators are also required to provide two white shirts a year to each driver and pay the road tax, insurance and Puspakom inspection service charges for the taxis.

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