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Mahathir-Tint

GOVT MAY REVIEW TINTED GLASS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- The government may review the regulation on the use of tinted glass on public service vehicles, especially buses painted with advertisements, which make it difficult to see what is happening within the bus from outside, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The prime minister said that previously the government had disallowed the use of tinted glass but many people had appealed and after it was allowed, the tinted glass was painted with advertisements.

"When it's painted with advertisements, we cannot see at all inside (the bus) and what happens inside we cannot see (from outside)", he told a news conference after opening the People's Progressive Party's (PPP) general assembly, here.

He said this when asked to comment on the rape and murder of a computer engineer, Noor Suzaily Mukhtar, by a bus driver in an express bus with heavily tinted windows.

"Regarding the advertising (on bus windows), I think we should rethink about this thing," he said.

Dr Mahathir said what happened to Suzaily was an isolated incident.

"This is not something that happens often. We cannot determine whether each (bus driver) is mentally stable or not, what his character is like and whether or not he can control his lust...but in this instance, we also have to look at the (tinted) glass," he said.

Asked whether the government would direct that public service vehicles return to using ordinary glass for their windows, he said it had yet to be decided.

The prime minister was also asked to comment on a news report that two students had seen Noor Suzaily knocking on the bus window as if asking for help but when they approached members of the public for help, none was given.

Dr Mahathir said such people only knew how to write to the press and blame the government but did lift a finger themselves.

On the hand, foot and mouth (HFMD) disease, Dr Mahathir said the only way to overcome it was to start from the source.

"We have to treat the source, that's the only way. Officers at the moment are looking at it...it's coming from somewhere, whether from animals... which animal we don't know yet," he said.

He said although Malaysia was less affected by the disease compared with some other countries, all necessary measures had to be taken to stop the disease from spreading.

"Follow medical advice. If they say close the kindergartens then you should take back your children and look after them and don't get them exposed to unnecessary source like animals," he said.

On the temporary closure of kindergartens which could cause problems to working parents, the prime minister said it should not be a problem as parents love their children and would do what was best for them.

-- BERNAMA

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