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IMPATIENCE KILLS, PM ADVISES BALIK-KAMPUNG CROWD

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today cautioned drivers that their own impatience on the road can be a potential killer during trips home to celebrate the upcoming festivals.

Expressing concern over the already high death toll in pre-celebration accidents nation-wide, he said there was a tendency among hasty Malaysian drivers to discount the possibility of themselves being the accident victims.

"Perhaps this year they rush and reach their destination safely but next year they may in turn be the victims. Never think accidents only befall others. We can be hit too," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this in an interview with Radio and Television Malaysia after taping his Aidil Fitri message at the Prime Minister's Department here.

The prime minister said he was saddened that the repeated reminders, including by the police, for motorists to observe preventive driving, seemed to be entirely ignored.

So far 130 people have been killed on nation-wide roads over 12 days since police launched an accident prevention campaign codenamed "Ops Statik IV" last Dec 23.

Dr Mahathir said arriving safely at their destination 10 minutes late would make much difference than not arriving at all, out of impatience and recklessness.

-- BERNAMA

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