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Mahathir-Petrol

DON'T BLAME PETROL PRICE TO DEMAND HIGHER COMMISSION, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said petrol dealers in the country should not give the excuse of the rise in fuel prices to justify their demand for an increase in their commission rates.

"They can ask for an increase in commission but don't give the excuse that it is because of the rise in the price of petrol," the Prime Minister told reporters after launching the Al-Mursyid digital Quran here, today.

Petrol Dealers Association of Malaysia (PDAM) vice president Abu Samah Bachik reportedly told the Business Times (BT) newspaper that if the government did not agree to the request, petrol stations might have to be closed.

The current commission rates are 6.18 sen a litre for petrol and 2.27 sen for diesel. The association is asking for a 4 sen increase in commission for petrol and 2 sen more for diesel.

Dr Mahathir said: "They get a commission of 6 sen, they are asking for an additional 4 sen. But 4 sen is about 60 per cent of their commission."

He described as "unwarranted" that percentage of increase because of a rise of 8 per cent in petrol and diesel prices.

"Maybe they have some other reasons, that is for them to settle. But do not blame it on the price of petrol," he added.

The BT article also said the dealers claimed that they were already having problems making ends meet even before the 10 sen increase in diesel and petrol prices as proposed under Budget 2002.

-- BERNAMA

MAM ZS AO