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Dr M urges motorists to drive safely as exodus from city begins

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - As Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad advised motorists to drive home carefully, the balik kampung exodus for Hari Raya began in earnest.

The Prime Minister's advice: Drive carefully.

"We will arrive even if we drive slowly. It doesn't matter if we're an hour or two late," he said at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport in Alor Star before leaving for here after a day-long visit to Kedah.

Dr Mahathir described reckless drivers as selfish and irresponsible and said it was appropriate for the authorities to come down hard on them because they posed a danger not only to themselves but also to others.

Meanwhile, the city was a hive of activity as bus terminals and the railway station were swarming with people rushing to go home.

A check at Puduraya and Hentian Duta showed thousands rushing to board buses.

It was a similar scene at Stesen Sentral Kuala Lumpur, where the new railway station is located.

The situation was not just confined to public transport terminals but also on the roads. East-bound motorists began clogging the MTD Gombak toll plaza on the KL-Karak highway from 3.30pm. The jam stretched back as far as three kilometres to Jalan Hulu Klang.

Gombak District Officer Ishak Ahmad was at the toll plaza to give motorists buka puasa packages as part of the district office's road safety campaign.

Highway concessionaire MTD Capital prepared about 12,000 packages and the district office about 200 packages.

Police officers, Rela personnel, MTD and district office staff were also on hand to distribute the packets.

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