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Azizan-MyKad
TOUCH `N GO FEATURE INCORPORATED INTO MYKAD

PETALING JAYA, June 13 (Bernama) -- The Touch `n Go electronic payment system has been incorporated into the government multipurpose card or "MyKad", which is also the identity card of the holder.

But the additional feature will only be available in the Klang Valley from next month.

National Registration Department (NRD) Director-General Datuk Azizan Ayob said that by next year, the "MyKad" could be used as a Touch 'n Go card all over the country.

"New applicants of MyKad will be offered the feature with no extra cost. They only need to pay RM20 for the card," he said at a news conference at his office here today.

Also present was Swinder Grewal, Chief Operations Officer of Rangkaian Segar Sdn Bhd, the company which introduces the Touch 'n Go card.

Azizan said the move to incorporate Touch `n Go electronic payment system into MyKad was in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion for a multi-functioned card.

"It is also an effort to create a common ticketing system for various services in the country," he said.

Azizan said existing holders of MyKad would have to apply for the Touch `n Go feature.

He said holders of MyKad with Touch `n Go application could top up their card just like the Touch `n Go prepaid card at Rangkaian Segar's authorised agents including Bumiputra Commerce Bank (BCB) ATM, Putra LRT counters and Petronas petrol stations.

The MyKad with this feature could also be used with SmartTAG, a battery-operated device that combines the Touch `n Go card also marketed by the company. It can also be used to pay Cityliner bus fares, Putra Line feeder buses and Putra LRT.

Azizan said the department was also looking into the possibility of storing more information in MyKad such as particulars of birth.

This would require bigger memory chip from 32K at present to 64K and would also increase the cost of the card, he said.

He said another possibility being looked into was the use of a combi chip to store all the applications instead of two chips, a contactless chip for Touch `n Go payment system and contact chip for personal particulars of the holder.

So far, a total of 1.8 million MyKad had been issued since its launching on Sept 5 last year with 40 per cent of the holders were first time applicants of identity card.

-- BERBNAMA

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