

15 FEB 2003

NAM-Traffic

POLICE GIVE THUMBS UP TO FIRST DRY RUN

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 15 (Bernama) -- Today's dry run for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit proceeded without any major traffic jam or technical hitches, said Internal Security and Public Order Director Datuk Mohd Sidek Mohd Ali.

"Everything went smoothly, and we only have to improve in certain areas, especially in ensuring local VIP guests arrive at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) before 8am," he said.

He said traffic personnel did not face much problem in ensuring that most of the "VVIPs and their entourage" arrived at the main venue on time.

"Our main concern will be in managing traffic flow on Monday, when the second dry run is conducted. It will be a real test to our personnel since it (Monday) is a working day and schooling day in the Federal Territory," he said.

Mohd Sidek told newsmen this after attending a special briefing on security arrangements for the summit at the PWTC here, the conference venue.

"We really hope that motorists, especially those working in the city centre, will adhere to our advice to arrive at their office as early 7.30am or use public transport like LRT or Putra which is very helpful in reducing the number of vehicles on roads around PWTC and other major roads."

More than 8,000 police personnel will be deployed in stages beginning today at major venues, hotels and other parts of the city to ensure an incident-free summit from Feb 20 to 25.

In a related development, federal traffic chief SAC II Koh Hong Sun reminded motorists to take note that on Monday police will completely close major roads leading from the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel to PWTC from 8am to 9.30am.

Among the affected roads are Jalan Sg Besi, Jalan Istana, Jalan Mahameru, Jalan Kuching, Jalan Sultan Ismail, Jalan P.Ramlee and other roads leading to PWTC.

The same roads will be closed from 6pm to 8.30pm on Monday for another rehearsal on ferrying VVIPs and other guests to the Palace of the Golden Horses Hotel, where a dinner will be hosted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Feb 24.

-- BERNAMA

SAN RV YBY