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MAHATHIR-TRANSPORT

SINGLE INTEGRATED REGULATOR TO INCREASE COMPETENCY, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- The introduction of a single integrated regulator for public transport in Klang Valley is to ensure better service for the public, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said at the moment there were too many operators introducing and managing all forms of transport on their own without any proper coordination.

"Every now and then you see buses stranded on the road side, people depriving of transport and when it rains there is traffic jam, obviously something has to be done and done in a coordinated manner," he told reporters after tabling the Mid-Term Review of The Eight Malaysian Plan at the Parliament Lobby here.

He was earlier asked whether the establishment of such a body was necessary in the restructuring of the transport system in Klang Valley, which was announced today.

The Prime Minister's Department today announced that a new company will operate the STAR and PUTRA Light Rail Transit (LRT) systems as well as buses in the Klang Valley under a lease agreement.

The move, aimed at offering better services to the public, forms part of the government's efforts to restructure the transport system in the Klang Valley.

It would raise the quality of the transportation system in the Klang Valley and enhance the status of its 4.5 million residents in the area covering over 3,000 square kilometres.

To be implemented in phases, the restructuring is expected to be completed by May 2005, the department said.

Among the main features of the restructuring is that the two LRT systems plus the buses were taken over by Syarikat Prasarana Negara Bhd (SPNB), which is wholly-owned by the government.

SPNB would manage the assets of the public transportation system owned by the government.

These assets would be leased to the Master Operator or the Newco through a lease agreement.

Currently, SPNB manages and operates the PUTRA and STAR LRT systems which were taken over on Sept 1, 2002.

The hire-purchase agreement for the buses owned by Intrakota and Parkmay was sealed this month.

The Master Operator would be set up as a joint venture company with an equity shareholding of 40:40:20 to ensure internal checks and balances.

Three parties which have been identified to hold this equity in the joint venture include Datuk Mohd Nadzmi Salleh (40 percent) KLIIG Bhd (40 percent) and KUB Bhd (20 percent).

All major asset and infrastructure expenses in the future would be financed by SPNB as the Main Asset Owner, the department said.

The Master Operator would make lease payments to SPNB for using these assets. -- BERNAMA

NM KTC