

12 MAY 2003

Nazri-Taxis

TAXI OPERATORS URGED TO LOOK OUTSIDE KUALA LUMPUR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 12 (Bernama) -- Taxi operators in the Klang Valley have been urged not to focus their operations here as there are several areas outside the city that require their services.

Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Nazri Abdul Aziz said although 13,000 taxi permits were issued last year, most of the operators were concentrated in the city.

"The operation area of Klang Valley taxis is wide, that is covering Kuala Lumpur, Seremban and Selangor, but all (taxi operators) want to come to Kuala Lumpur. This has caused places like Klang and Seremban to lack taxi service," he told reporters after launching the "Taxi Drivers Appreciation Day" here today.

The inaugural event was organised by Syarikat Bakti Raya Sdn Bhd to honour city cabbies who have brought tourists to Menara Kuala Lumpur.

Also present were Menara Kuala Lumpur chief executive officer Zulkifli Mohamad and Bakti Raya director S.Thavaratnam.

Nazri said taxi drivers should improve their services to attract more locals as passengers to offset the drop in foreign tourists following the SARS scare.

He also said the ministry and the Commercial Vehicles Licensing Board would hold a Taxi Drivers Quality Day in honour of tax drivers who had rendered excellent services.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will fix the date for the Quality Day. I have also informed all taxi operators' associations to regularly hold defensive-driving campaigns," he said.

At the ceremony, Nazri also launched a taxi coupon counter supervised by Bakti Raya.

-- BERNAMA

RW HM YBY