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Students happy with exemption

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - University students have lauded the proposal to exempt road tax for motorcycles of engine capacity not exceeding 150cc announced in the Budget yesterday.

University of Malaya second-year engineering student Azizul Razali, 20, said:

"It will lessen the burden on students. This is probably Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's retirement gift to the rakyat."

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia second-year computer science student Shah Kamal Azrin, 21, said students could use the money saved for other things.

Final year Islamic studies student Hasnita Md Rejab, 25, from Perak, said: "We are after all students and most of us don't have an income. It's one less hassle we have to think about."

Third year bio-medical engineering student Gayathri Thanabalan, 20, however said abolishing the road tax might create other problems arising from more students wanting to use motorcycles.

Twenty-one-year-old Haron Arip, a Humanities major at Universiti Sains Malaysia, said the proposed move would ease the financial burden of students.

"I think this is very timely and it clearly shows the Government's concern for university students," he said.

Azrani Mohd Zain, 21, who is undergoing a course in educational studies, said: "Now, no one can say that the Government does not take into account the students' welfare."

Social Science student Mohd Hairi Hashim, 22, said the proposed move would help students from poor families.

Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia (KUTKM) student Tan Shao Pin, 19, said the amount of road tax for smaller capacity motorcycles might not be much, but the savings could still be substantial for the lower income group.

Muhammad Hafidz Ibrahim, 19, said the Government should be thanked for making the bold decision to abolish the tax.

"Lower capacity motorcycles are popular among students and not having to pay road tax is good news indeed," he said.

Wan Syahira Wan Yadri, 19, said most students used to ride motorcycles without road tax, especially on campus grounds, and abolishing such tax was welcome news for many.

Property management student Lau Tai Lee, 22, however, felt it was not that big a deal as the amount she paid for road tax was small, between RM55 and RM65 a year.

Universiti Putra Malaysia Faculty of Modern Language and Communication lecturer Syed Agil Alsagoff, while welcoming the move, said the downside was that there would be more motorcycles in institutions of higher learning and probably more thefts too.

"There will also be higher risks of accidents occurring on campus. There should be safety mechanisms introduced to ensure proper road safety."