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Transport service charges to increase, says PMLOA

MUAR, Wed. - Pan Malaysia Lorry Owners' Association members plan to increase their transport service charges to the ceiling of 25 sen per tonne for every 1.6 kilometres following a 10 per cent increase in road tax for double-axle semi-trailers.

The 25-sen ceiling was approved by the Transport Ministry 44 years ago.

Currently, PMLOA members are charging between 15 sen and 18 sen per tonne for every 1.6km, depending on the routes.

Association president Er Sui See said the decision to increase the charges was reached because members feel they have to do something to offset the increase in operating cost caused by factors including the "hefty" road tax.

He said association members had discovered that the road tax rates had been raised from RM6,198 to RM6,996 for 25-tonne vehicles, RM8,174 to RM8,732 (32 tonnes), and RM8,853 to RM9,724 (36 tonnes).

He said by imposing the higher rates, the Government would expect to bring in an additional RM74 million a year from 100,000 such vehicles based on an average of RM742 road tax increase each.

Er said PMLOA would write to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Finance Minister, to seek clarification on the increase inroad tax for their vehicles.