

Gov't collects RM226 mil in open AP fees
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JOHOR BAHRU, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- The government collected a total of RM225.91 million from Open AP (Approved Permit) holders in the past one year, Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Mukhriz Mahathir said.

He said the proceeds, from the RM10,000 fee for each Open AP, would be used to implement the bumiputera development plan in the automotive sector.

"The government is formulating the plan, including for the Open AP holders to move to other business sectors," he told a news conference after opening the RM12 million Wisma Lace Motor Sdn Bhd in Johor Baharu.

Present were Lace Motor founder Rokiah Omar and general manager Yahya Jaafar.

Mukhriz said among programmes identified under the plan was a soft loan for bumiputera entrepreneurs who are keen to venture into the automotive sub-sector or other fields of business.

He called on local entrepreneurs to give feedback and proposals for the development plan.

Mukhriz said the government had also agreed to collect the fee in instalment to help AP holders cope with financial burden, with RM5,000 to be paid in the first instalment.

He also urged local automotive companies to focus on innovative technologies and fulfilling market demands when planning a product.

"Investment in research and development in green technology is also very much welcome," he said.

- Bernama