

Human factor main culprit

Pak Lah: Change attitude on the road

PUTRAJAYA: If a car is spoilt, it can be fixed. If a road is damaged, it can be repaired. If the road behaviour of a driver is bad it can be changed.

This is the message from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who wants to see a zero-accident rate this festive holiday.

He said the human factor had been the cause of most fatal accidents.

"Such deaths are not only sad for the family and friends but for the nation as well because it is a loss Of human capital. Each death is a loss," he said.

Abdullah said it would be a pity if after spending lots of money to send a child through school and college, he or she is

killed in a road accident.

"All the money spent does not bring any benefit; worse still if the person is the sole breadwinner. Who can replace him?" he said-at the Internal Security Ministry monthly gathering here yesterday.

Abdullah noted that most road accidents were not caused by bad road conditions or other factors.

"If the car is spoilt or the road is damaged, they can be repaired, but if the attitude of a driver is not good, such as speeding or falling asleep while driving, accidents can happen," he said.

"Can you imagine the anguish of parents waiting for the arrival of their beloved child

and what comes home is their child's lifeless body?"

He stressed that accidents could be prevented and avoided, and road safety was the responsibility of all individuals.

He also reminded drivers, especially of commercial vehicles like vans and buses, that their recklessness could cause the death of passengers.

He hoped *Ops Sikap XI* would be more effective in reducing the number of road accidents and deaths compared with previous operations.

Abdullah said it was good to see people *balik kampung* to visit family and relatives, but the visits should not only be during festive occasions.