

PM wants speed limits to be reduced

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PUTRAJAYA: As accidents mostly occurred on federal roads, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wants the speed limit on these roads to be reduced.

This, the Prime Minister said, should be done during the festive season exodus.

He said the Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan has already been directed to work with the Transport Ministry in reviewing the speed limits.

"The number of accidents on the highways is fewer than those on federal roads, that is why a review is needed.

"Each festive season I get worried thinking about the high accident rate caused by drivers' attitude.

"Driving at a slower speed helps drivers have better control of their cars, especially in an emergency," he said, urging Malaysian drivers to adopt the "better late than never" attitude.

Musa had announced that the speed limit for federal and state roads would be reduced during *Ops Sikap XI* which starts on Oct 14 and ends a week after Hari Raya.

At present, the speed limit for federal and state roads is 90kph and 80kph, respectively.

Speaking to reporters after an informal meeting with ulamas from all over the country at his office here

yesterday, Abdullah also urged non-governmental organisations to tread carefully when discussing issues of race and religion.

This, he said, was to avoid inflaming racial and religious sensitivities.

The Prime Minister said it was unsuitable for the issues to be discussed openly as it was against the country's social contract as stipulated in the Federal Constitution.

He urged all parties, especially NGOs, to use the Constitution as a guideline before resorting to actions that could cause disunity among the people.

The government, he warned, would be monitoring such attempts and take action against them.