

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	18 JANUARY 2017

APPROVED PERMITS

# GOVT TO REVIEW A.P. FEE

It will look into policy, especially RM10,000 fee, says Najib

FAIRUZ MOHD SHAHAR  
CYBERJAYA  
news@nst.com.my

**T**HE government will review measures, especially the RM10,000 fee, to ease the burden of companies on the open approved permits (AP).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government had agreed to study the AP fee system and would wait for proposals from the International Trade and Industry Ministry.

"Since the RM10,000 fee for AP was introduced in 2010, it has put a strain on the cash flow of AP companies. As this involves the country's revenue, the Finance Ministry will discuss the issue and submit a proposal."

Najib, who is also finance minister, said since the AP fee system was implemented, the government had collected about RM2 billion.

He said this at the launch of Wisma Malay Vehicle Importers and Traders Association of Malaysia (Pekema) here yesterday.

Present were International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed and Pekema president Datuk Zainuddin Abd Rahman.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the launch of Wisma Pekema in Cyberjaya yesterday. With him are (from left) Pekema president Datuk Zainuddin Abd Rahman, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed and Pekema vice-president Datuk Wan Zaid Wan Abdullah. PIC BY AHMAD IRHAM MOHD NOOR

Najib said some of the proceeds from the AP fees had been re-used under the Bumiputera automotive fund.

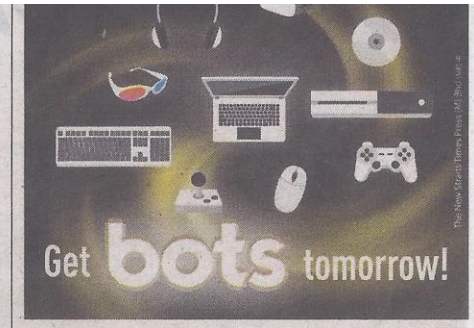
"From the fund, we offer easy loan for open AP companies to expand their business and increase the capacity of the automotive industry."

Under the National Automotive Policy, the open AP policy was initially proposed to be terminated on Dec 31 last year. However, it was continued with improvements, which include providing opportunities for new companies

that are eligible to engage in the business of importation, distribution and sale of used cars and motorcycles.

Najib said the policy was aimed at empowering the Bumiputera economic agenda and boosting their involvement in the automotive industry.

"We hope the new open AP policy will encourage Malays and Bumiputeras to be involved in the tourism, property and service sectors as well."



He said new and existing open AP companies could start operations this year.

Najib urged open AP companies to be alert to the market's situation and demands, and diversify their business.

"According to the Malaysian Automotive Association report, 515,293 vehicle units were sold between January and November last year, a decrease of 13.73 per cent compared with the same period in 2015 when 597,306 units were sold.

"We hope the companies won't rely on the sales of imported used cars and motorcycles to earn income. In the automotive sector, there are business opportunities, such as the distribution of new cars, remanufacturing, setting up recycling centre, car inspection and many more."

He said more than 20,000 job opportunities were offered in the automotive sector last year. This year, the government targeted 27,000 job opportunities in the industry.

Praising Wisma Pekema's eight-floor twin towers, Najib said the RM25 million building was built using contributions from Pekema members.

He said the building symbolised the success of Malay and Bumiputera entrepreneurs, resulting from the open AP policy implemented by the government.