

Issuing Of Individual Taxi Permits Allows Drivers To Become Employers

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GEORGE TOWN, April 8 (Bernama) -- Penang taxi drivers welcomed the pledge by the Barisan Nasional (BN) to increase the issuance of taxi permits to individuals as this enables them to be their own employers.

The vice-chairman of the Penang Malay Taxi and Hire Car Drivers Association, Abdul Hamid Mydin, 57, said many of the more than 2,000 taxi drivers registered with the association had to use the permits of concession companies.

He said the issuance of individual taxi permits proved that the government had raised the dignity of taxi drivers as professionals because the drivers using company permits were akin to those working for third parties when they had to pay for the permit rental.

"Our income is between RM40 and RM60 per day. We have to bear the cost of petrol, vehicle maintenance and rental (for the permit). Sometimes we can't even meet our cost. (If there is) any delay in paying the instalment, the car will be repossessed," he said when contacted by Bernama, here.

He said the issuance of individual permits would mean that the taxi drivers were no longer tied to the concession companies which were making profits 'on air' all this time.

Among the contents of the BN manifesto for the 13th general election launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak recently was to increase the number of individual taxi permits in a move to improve the efficiency of public transport.

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