

BETTER TRANSPORT

PM: TRANSPORT POLICY TO BOOST GROWTH

It can be achieved with good planning and cooperation, says Dr M

NURADZIMMAH DAIM
AND NOR AIN MOHAMED RADHI
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE National Transport Policy 2019-2030 (NTP 2019-2030) will map the government's path towards providing a sustainable transport system that contributes to the country's economic growth, besides ensuring the people's wellbeing.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in unveiling the plan yesterday, said this would be done via strategic planning by the government, on top of the cooperation and commitment from industry players, stakeholders and the people.

"The policy will ensure that Malaysia continues to remain a business-friendly nation, meet the needs of the industry and able to compete internationally in the transport industry," said Dr Mahathir.

He said the launch and implementation of the policy was crucial as the government wanted to set a detailed and clear direction for the transport sector, which would be among the main drivers for the growth of the country.

"For a long time, the country has developed a variety of infrastructure, including transport infrastructure for land, air and sea. It has contributed to the country's economic growth and competitiveness globally.

"The contribution of various sectors, including the transport sector, has placed Malaysia at 25th out of 140 countries in the Global Competitiveness Report by World Economic Forum last year.

"In the same year (2018), our two ports — Port of Klang and Port of Tanjung Pelepas — were listed among the 20 best ports in the world in terms of volume of containers.

"They were at 12th and 18th place, respectively.

"Last year, Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) was ranked 12th among the 20 most connected airports worldwide, catering to more than 43.6 million passengers."

Dr Mahathir said NTP 2019-2030 was in line with the recently-announced Shared Prosperity Vision 2021-2030, which emphasised the equitability of outcomes.

"NTP 2019-2030 also emphasises inclusivity via involvement of the people and industry players in the transport sector, specifically public transport."

The government had outlined six strategies and 30 action plans to achieve its goals.

He said among the key issues, which would be addressed through the policy, were technological advancements, changes in trends of people's mobility and development of e-commerce.

The government, he said, would strive to boost public transport, including rail projects in cities, to cater to the needs of urban residents.

Dr Mahathir said the increasing number of private vehicles in



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Transport Minister Anthony Loke (left) and Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Kamarudin Jaffar (right) launching the National Transport Policy at KL Sentral yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

cities had resulted in the government having to build more urban and suburban roads.

"To reduce congestion, the government will encourage the use of public transport by building dual-track electric railroads."

He added that the use of trains to transport freight had increased to 200,000 tonnes in the first sev-

en months this year compared with the same period last year.

He said the government would continue to improve railway services, be it for passengers or freight, by upgrading and establishing new rail routes.

The government was also acquiring new Electric Train System and monorail carriages.

Dr Mahathir, in underscoring the importance of rail transport, cited Japan's railway services as fully utilised in terms of timing and frequency.

"We will invite experts from Japan to look at improving the timetables for rail services for passengers and freight," he said.



Last year, Kuala Lumpur International Airport was ranked 12th among the 20 most connected airports worldwide, while Port of Klang is listed among the 20 best ports in the world in terms of container volume. FILE PIX