

WORSENING TRAFFIC JAMS

# 'IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM'

Driving will remain commuters' choice unless govt can solve last-mile connectivity issues, say netizens

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**M**ALAYSIANS have urged the government to improve public transport efficiency following a report that says the number of vehicles has overtaken the human population in the country.

Netizens said many still needed to drive their own vehicles as the public transport network remained lacking in terms of last-mile connection.

Facebook user Wilson Toh said public transport needed to be properly connected to various locations, including bus routes between residential areas and train stations.

"Cars commuting to the city is still the preference (preferred way of travel) for many unless (the) government can (figure out how) to minimise the heavy traffic. (However,) We don't see one



Congestion at the Gombak toll plaza heading to the Karak Expressway on Monday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

capable minister now (who's able to resolve the issue)."

Another user, Jude David, said without a solution to address the lack of connection, many found the use of public transport to be redundant.

"Most public transport users

still need to drive to (the) MRT station and take a bus or Grab (e-hailing service) to reach their destination.

"Or, they need to take a bus to the MRT station (and) the buses are never on time."

Liew Peng Long said the MRT

had not been utilised properly due to the lack of buses linked to its stations.

"It is much cheaper and convenient (for people) to travel by (their) own cars or e-hailing to the MRT. MRT (will) soon become a white elephant."

Yesterday, NST reported that the number of vehicles in the country had overtaken the human population, with an increase of at least one million vehicles annually since 2019.

Road safety expert Professor Dr Kulanthayan K.C. Mani of Universiti Putra Malaysia said there were 33.3 million registered vehicles nationwide up to last year versus the human population, which stood at 32.7 million.

He said of that figure, up to 47.3 per cent were cars, 46.6 per cent were motorcycles and 4.7 per cent were goods vehicles. The rest were buses, taxis, car rentals and others.

Netizen Ace Empathy said employers should consider maintaining the option for their workers to continue working from home to ease congestion.

"Once the lockdown was over, most employers, including the government, (had) asked employees to physically return to the office and return to the old ways (of working).

"(They) Didn't even look at the possibility of continuing with the effective and productive rotational work-from-home policy, for certain categories of jobs.

"These shabby decisions show that we lack visionary leaders who can make well-calculated, strategic and futuristic decisions for the rakyat and nation."