PRESS STATEMENT/RELEASE

Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPj) would like to refer to the article titled ‘Disabled Man Has Wheel Power’ published via Streets of New Straits Times dated 2nd September 2010.

The article states that there are potholes along the bicycle lanes and that some of its stretches are poorly lighted. PPj’s inspection found that the stretch in question is not part of the actual bicycle lane but only a temporary lane/access that was used during the recent Floria 2010. The bicycle lane along the Promenade of Precinct 2 (the stretch in question) is well lighted by street lighting with ‘uplighter’ lights at tree-lined stretches to accentuate the garden concept of Putrajaya.

PPj takes its role as administrator of the city very seriously and safety of its inhabitants is a priority. PPj can be contacted directly on our hotline @ 03-88873000.

Thank you.

(ZAHARAH SALAMAT)
Senior Deputy Director, Public Relations
for President, Perbadanan Putrajaya

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Prepared by Public Relations Division, Perbadanan Putrajaya
Tel: 03-8887 7033 Fax: 03-8887 5013
Disability makes man 'wheel power'

PULTRAJAH: Unlike many who drive or take public transport to work in the administrative capital, Mohd Ali Abu Araih prefers to ride his bicycle.

He works at the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry at Wisma Tanah.

Ali was born with congenital deformities on both fingers of his right hand. All but the thumb had to be removed.

But the disability did not stop the 32-year-old from pursuing his childhood passion — cycling.

He cycled to the only primary school in Pulaujaya.

And it is how he works as a driver at the Ministry of Agriculture’s Welfare Department.

Every morning, Ali cycles three kilometers from his house to Pulaujaya to reach his workplace and another three kilometers to get back.

He prefers to ride a bicycle than to drive a car or ride a motorcycle to work as he doesn’t have to worry about parking. Now, he can get his regular exercise and stay fit.

Ali started cycling to work in March.

"There was once I saw someone travelling to work on a bicycle, but that was four months ago. I have not seen him since," he said.

He said his friends had asked him why he cycled to work and he told them it was a matter of convenience.

"We do not need to think about paying road tax and there is no fuss about buying fuel or even worrying about vehicle maintenance. It is also good for the environment, and helps me to stay fit," he said.

Ali believes that many Pulaujaya folk will not be keen on cycling to work as the bicycle lane was not standardised. The road is not at times and sometimes when it is raining, it is difficult to find shelter. So, when it rains, my wife sends me to work.

He said he had to be careful because there were potholes in the bicycle lane.

"Some areas do not have lights and it can be rather dangerous. When it’s dark, it’s hard to see the potholes," he said.

Ali makes it a point to wear proper protective gear such as a cycling helmet and padded jacket, whenever he cycles to work.

He also encourages his sons Muhammad Afzal, 9, and Muhammad Afiq bin Ali, 6, to cycle by helping each of them buy a BMX bicycle.

His wife also has a mountain bike. The family goes on cycling trips during the weekends.

"My kids are not allowed to cycle to their school as the vehicles in that area are always speeding. If only more people would cycle, the road would be safer for everyone," Ali said, adding that he also participated in cycling tournaments.