

## **Govt Gets Tough On Traffic Offences**

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**KUALA LUMPUR** : Amendments to the Road Transport (Amendment) Bill 2020 address reckless and dangerous driving along with driving under the influence of drugs as well as alcohol, says Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong. These were issues that were considered in the Bill, which was tabled for first reading in Dewan Rakyat, he said during at Parliament yesterday. He said the Bill proposed that those charged under Section 41 for dangerous or reckless driving, should face between five and 10 years as well as a fine of not less than RM20,000 and not more than RM50,000.

Dr Wee said those driving recklessly, including those who fall asleep at the wheel, could be charged under the law. "If you cause death, these will be the penalties. "We are serious. If you cannot control your car, it means it is reckless driving, " he said.

He said the punishment for offences related to "basikal lajak" (modified bicycles, typically with brakes removed) and other micromobility vehicles would be increased under the Bill. "If they are above 21 years old, we will charge them. But if it involves minors, the parents or guardians who allow them to go out late at night will be fined, " he said. According to the Bill, microbility vehicle means any vehicle that is propelled by electrical means, an internal combustion engine, or human power, or by any combination of various means, with a maximum speed of 50kph. The Bill states that an offender who rides a micromobility vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be fined between RM1,000 and RM5,000 and shall be liable to imprisonment of not more than a year.

When asked about concerns over the use of breathalysers at roadblocks during the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr Wee said the relevant authorities had a clear standard operating procedure (SOP) on the matter. "You need to follow the SOP by the manufacturers and that is not a big problem in terms of the hygiene aspect, " he said.