

## **Cabinet backs m-cycle taxi service ban**

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PUTRAJAYA: The cabinet has agreed to the Transport Ministry's decision, to ban controversial motorcycle taxi service provider Dego Ride.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the service would not be legalised in Malaysia as it posed a high risk to passengers.

"If it becomes a commercial taxi (service), it creates risk for passengers. For the sake of public safety, we have to err on the side of caution.

"In Malaysia, we would like more accessible public transport through systems like the Mass Rapid Transit and Light Rail Transit by undergoing a public transport transformation as fast as we can," he said at the ministry here yesterday.

He said the ministry would meet the public to explain why Dego Ride was a "no go", adding: "I'm open to meeting Dego Ride operators and discussing the matter. However, we stand firm by the decision to ban it."

On Monday, it was reported that the ministry had ordered Dego Ride to cease operations immediately.

The government, Liow said, had no interest in legalising the service due to the high number of accidents involving motorcycles, with more than 60 per cent of fatalities involving motorcycle crashes.

The service, which began in November last year, uses WhatsApp as its booking medium.