

Drivers encouraged to install advanced driver-assistance systems

PUTRAJAYA: No one will be spared from traffic offences, even if they are ministers, said Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai. The Transport Minister said this was proven in the case where Road Transport Department (JPJ) deputy director-general Datuk Yusoff Ayob was fined RM600 for driving in the emergency lane.

“At the Transport Ministry, we do not take lightly towards traffic offences. It does not matter who committed it. “In this case, it shows that we are transparent.

Even if the person who commit the offence is a minister, he will not be spared,” said Liow at a press conference here. Liow said abusing the emergency lane is a serious traffic offence, just like speeding and jumping the red light.

Yusoff pleaded guilty at the Putrajaya Magistrates Court to committing the offence at Lingkar Putrajaya at 6.27pm on Oct 7 last year.

Liow said this after witnessing a collaboration agreement signing between Atilze Digital Sdn Bhd and U Mobile Sdn Bhd to offer Connected Car solutions.

Connected cars are vehicles that are equipped with Internet access which enables data applications. This helps provide better insight on driving patterns, behaviour and car conditions through real-time diagnostics and predictive maintenance.

Liow said drivers are encouraged to have a connected Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems, or Adas, in their vehicles, as it has proven to reduce road accidents.

“Some countries like Singapore, Japan and South Korea have already made it mandatory in their countries. Here, we want to encourage drivers to have it.

“The Transport Ministry will also study the possibilities of having this system installed in commercial vehicles such as buses and taxis. “Features such as driver records, dashboard cameras and a driver alert system can help reduce accidents,” he said.

Liow also said the ministry, together with the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety, are developing an automatic emergency calling system (eCall), which will be available for free to the rakyat by mid-2019.

“This system will immediately communicate data within 30 seconds of a traffic collision to the Malaysian Emergency Response Services, or MERS999, bringing about tangible improvements to post-crash responses,” he said.

On another matter, Liow said the government could also consider introducing a flexible road-tax payment system that would reward drivers with clean records.

“We recently implemented the liberalisation of motor insurance where car owners pay less premiums if they have better driving records.

“In the future, we could implement a similar system on road tax. But this is just for consideration,” he said.

