

Load increment for small lorries, says minister

ALOR SETAR: Small lorries, which are categorised as D-controlled commercial vehicles, will have their vehicle weight with loads increased from five tonnes to 7.5 tonnes with immediate effect.

This could reduce the cost of goods and also transportation cost by 7%, among others, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, adding such a move would also help small and medium industry players.

“Sabah and Sarawak are not included because this is not appropriate for their roads and bridge structures. “We have plans for these two states but it will take some time as the infrastructure (roads and bridges) would need to be upgraded first,” he said after chairing a Road Safety Council meeting yesterday.

Liow said the Federal Government came to that decision after discussions with the Works Ministry, the Road Safety Council and Land Public Transport Commission.

“We’ve taken all the safety elements into consideration and also the structure of the lorries and the engine capacity,” he said “The weight increment is also for commercial vehicles with two-, three-, four-, five- and six-axle weighing between 18,000kg and 44,000kg excluding Sabah and Sarawak.” Liow, who also visited the Kuala Kedah Ferry Terminal, said the Government would expand the terminal especially the dockyard and the walkway to ease congestion.

“The RM208mil project will start this year,” he said, adding that there would also be a service to ferry vehicles to and from Langkawi. Currently, the service is only available at Kuala Perlis.

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