

Periodic checks on e-hailing bike services

KUALA LUMPUR: Periodic spot checks will be conducted on motorcycle ride-hailing services until enough data is available for regulatory framework to govern the industry, Transport Minister Anthony Loke said yesterday. He said his ministry and the Land Public Transport Agency (APAD) will ensure that the companies providing these services adhere to safety regulations and standards. “These bikes have to navigate through heavy traffic in and about Kuala Lumpur which is why my advice to all motorcycle ride-hailing services is that you must follow the safety regulations set in place,” Loke said after a Dego Ride to the Pasar Seni LRT station where he was met by reporters. “APAD will audit all data collected from the company, the number of passengers and the speed at which the riders travel. “We will do this throughout the six-month pilot project period which was agreed upon and with the data we collect we will ensure these riders are following the rules with safety as the priority.” A former government official has cautioned the allowing bike ride-hailing services without proper guidelines could pose an “experimental error”.

Wan Agyl Wan Hassan, former group operation head of policy and planning at the now-defunct Land Public Transport Commission, was quoted by Free Malaysia Today as saying that regulations should have been drafted before the trial period. “Don’t just simply run the service without drafting regulations or at least set guidelines. “Are we willing to risk human lives for an experiment? “Based on industry feedback, it seems the regulations will be drawn up by the service providers via a proposal, which is completely wrong”. The Transport Ministry should get experts to draft out the regulations for the industry, he said.

The six-month trial period in Kuala Lumpur started on Jan 3. Dego Ride is the only company which has started providing motorcycle ride-hailing services so far. The company has 700 available riders and another 4,000 applicants pending.

SUMBER: THE SUN | M/S: 2 | 7 JANUARI 2020