

Liow: We're going the extra mile to ensure your safety

KUALA LUMPUR: Extra measures are in place to reduce untoward incidents during the Chinese New Year exodus when many Malaysians travel back to their hometowns, says Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai.

The Transport Minister said in past years, there were more than 200 deaths on average during the two-week festive period and the Government did not want this to continue happening.

"There is a high rate of accidents every festive season. We have Ops Bersepadu and Ops Sikap as preventive efforts during this period.

"We will mobilise Road Transport Department (RTD) officers for stronger enforcement and launch campaigns to create awareness," he said. Liow added that lorries would not be allowed on the road two days before and two days after Chinese New Year to ensure a smoother flow for other vehicles.

He said highway concessionaires would also issue travel advisories on the appropriate travel times. "I appeal to everyone to drive safely this festive season.

Let's drive safely and reach our destinations safely," said Liow, who is expected to attend a Chinese New Year road safety campaign today. On a separate matter, Liow said several countries had expressed their interest in participating in the tender for the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail project.

China and Japan were among them, he added. "The open tender will run until June 29, so we still have some time. We should know the results by the end of the year.

"This is an international tender and we hope all participating countries can give the best to Malaysia and Singapore," he said after launching the China-Malaysia SMEs Business Matching Conference 2018 yesterday. In his speech, Liow urged SMEs to capitalise on the strong economic growth in China and Malaysia.

"I visited Beijing recently and China is very confident of our economic growth and will continue to enhance the Belt and Road initiative with us. "Our SMEs can also benefit from our Digital Free Trade Zone to boost e-commerce in Malaysia," said Liow.