

## **“E-Hailing Firms Must Register’ This Will Offer A Level Playing Field To Taxi, E-Hailing Operators, Says Loke**

---

PUTAJAYA : Starting today, e hailing companies must register with the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) and comply with a set of regulations. Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the move was aimed to give a level playing field to taxi and e –hailing operators. He said the set of regulations imposed on the e-hailing industry, which were in line with the taxi industry, involved conditions to apply for a licence, conditions for vehicles, conditions for driver worthiness and conditions for operation. The conditions for licence application require e-hailing companies to register with companies Commission Of Malaysia and Cooperative Commission of Malaysia. There are about 10 e-hailing companies.

One of the conditions for vehicles is that it is open for brands with at least three-star rating of Asean New Car Assessment Programme, or equivalent to it. The conditions for driver worthiness are the same as the application made for a public service vehicle licence and the condition for operation is to provide insurance coverage for driver, passenger and third party.”One –year – grace period is given from the date of enforcement for e-hailing operators to comply with these conditions,” he said after chairing the Transport Ministry’s post-cabinet meeting.Despite the one-year moratorium, Loke said the ministry would keep a close watch and those who showed lack in commitment could face problems in securing licences.

Loke listed some of the level-playing field factors to be implemented, including requiring taxis and e-hailing vehicles to undergo inspection at the Computerised Vehicle Inspection Centre (Puspakom) at least once a year for vehicles registered with the Road Transport Department that were more than three years old.He said meter inspection for taxi-class licence would be done only once a year compared with twice a year before.”Drivers are required to under- go a six-hour training module for RM200 per head.”The training can be done by various parties,including taxi companies, driving schools or companies accredited by SPAD/APAD (Land Public Transport Agency), ‘ he said. On grouses regarding the high commission rates imposed by e-hailing companies of up to 25 per cent, Loke said, the government had decided to cap the commission rates.

“Maximum commission rate of 10 per cent has been set for e-hailing service that is run by taxi drivers and 20 per cent for services run by personal vehicle drivers. “ The surcharge rate is limited to two times of the fare price.” Asked on the different commission ceiling rates for taxis and personal vehicle drivers, he said the lower maximum commission rate for taxi drivers was to encourage more to migrate to a e-hailing plat form. For taxi drivers who wanted to participate on the e-hailing industry, Loke said the goverment would give them a cash grant of RM5,000 to buy new or used vehicles. Loke said SPAD had instructed e-hailing applications, either for drivers or passengers, to be equipped with SOS/999 emergency alerts, citing a recent murder of a Grab driver.

“For the safety of e-hailing drivers , passengers are required to uphold valid identification card or passport details when they register,” he said, adding that the given information should not be abused by those in the e-hailing industry.In another move to protect the welfare of e-hailing drivers, Loke said e-hailing companies were required to come up with a code of conduct and guidelines for drivers to relay their grouses, which could be audited by the government.He said the government would begin to investigate elements of

monopoly following complaints lodged with SPAD when Grab and Uber merged in March. He said SPAD had conducted a survey of the e-hailing industry involving about 46,000 respondents. The survey reveals that 52 per cent chose to use e-hailing applications and 70 per cent wanted the government to regulate e-hailing services.

“The number of trips recorded by e-hailing companies increased from six million a month in 2016 to 18 million this year.” There are about 200,000 registered e-hailing drivers, who are active and 50,000 of them are full-time drivers.

---

**SOURCE: THE SUN | PAGE: 13 | 12 JULY 2018**