

12 RTD Officers nabbed over "lesen terbang"

PUTRAJAYA: The Transport Ministry will not tolerate corruption within its ranks, its minister Anthony Loke declared when announcing the arrest of 12 Road Transport Department (RTD) staff for suspected involvement in the issuance of "Lesen Terbang". "Lesen Terbang" refers to driving licenses issued to those who did not sit for the required examination. Loke said the 12 comprised a deputy director, two assistant enforcement chiefs, two assistant enforcement officers, six enforcement assistants and an administration assistant.

The arrests were carried out in Perlis, Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Sabah and Sarawak from Sept 4. "Those who have obtained their licenses without going through the proper channel have also been called to assist with investigations," he said at a press conference here. Loke said his ministry will extend its full cooperation to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and police. Elaborating on the syndicates' modus operandi, he said it begins with "runners" who promote the service on social media accounts to secure clients. The "runners" then deal with the RTD officers to work on the issuance of the licenses after the clients have paid half the amount. Loke said each license is sold for between RM2,000 and RM 3,500. "The RTD staff will process the license applications by using the international conversion license procedure, as though the applicant has had a driver's license from another country: he said. "but our checks revealed that these individuals have never visited or worked in any foreign country or have never had a driver's license of another country.

He said soon as the process is completed, the RTD will record it into the system, which will enable a genuine license to be issued. The "runner" will then send the license by post to their client after receiving the balance of the payment. "we have identified one RTD branch office which is carrying out the license conversion. Now, we have decided that all license conversion can only be done at the state RTD office, Loke said. He said the syndicates were promoting their services openly on social media "like they are challenging the authorities" The Ministry has not discounted the possibility that there could be more RTD officers involved and left the matter to the investigative bodies. "The licenses are genuine but they are not obtained via the proper channels," Loke said.

"In case of 12 who were arrested and are out on bail, they may not have been charged in court in court but I have instructed that they be suspended from their duties. "This is to send a strong message that we will not tolerate such acts."

SOURCE: MALAY MAIL | PAGE: 4 | 14 SEPTEMBER 2018