

Liow: Accident statistics alarming

PETALING JAYA: The Government will implement four urgent measures to stem the rising number of road accidents and fatalities.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the decision was unanimously made at the Cabinet Task Force on Road Safety meeting yesterday.

“Several key areas were covered with a view towards execution in the near term.

“They are the implementation of the Automated Awareness Safety System and Kejara Demerit Points System, the standardisation of the maximum permitted weight of commercial vehicles, evaluation of road safety and accident investigation of the East Coast Expressway 2 and recommendations on improvement, and the execution of the International Road Safety Assessment Programme (IRAP) in Malaysia and implementation of its framework,” he said in a statement yesterday.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. According to the statement, the road safety education module was also presented there.

Liow said the task force was briefed on current road safety initiatives including road safety statistics during festive periods.

“An advocacy plan by the Road Safety Department was reviewed, accompanied by a review of the implementation of Malaysia’s Road Safety Plan 2014 – 2020,” he said.

Liow also observed that Malaysia recorded 489,606 road accidents and 6,706 deaths on the road in 2015.

“This was clearly an increase from 2014 and the economic loss incurred was in excess of RM8bil. “These alarming statistics continue to be addressed by the Government and with the new measures that will be implemented, we are hopeful that accidents and fatalities will drop,” he added.

Liow also urged road users to be responsible and courteous for the sake of their safety and that of others on the road.

“A dedicated Cabinet Taskforce on Road Safety cannot achieve its goals if the rakyat and non-government organisations do not play their role in this matter,” Liow added.

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