

## All Ex-SPAD Staff Compensated, Says Loke

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PUTRAJAYA: All 961 former staff of the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) have been compensated a minimum of three months's wages, says Transport Minister Anthony Loke. He said claims by some of the former SPAD employees that the ministry had broken its promise and deliberately punished them were not fair and not "the full picture." The ministry worked hard to ensure they were compensated. I fought hard in the cabinet Meeting so that all staff across the board would get compensation,

"We promised every SPAD staff member would be compensated based on their years of service with a minimum of three months' wages if they served less than three years," he said yesterday. Loke spoke to newsmen after witnessing the signing of two agreements between MAS Wings and the government for the airline to provide 39 Rural Air Services (RAS) routes in Sabah and Sarawak, and for AirAsia to operate the former RAS routes of Kota Kinabalu – Sibul and Kota Kinabalu – Bintulu, which were recently reclassified as commercial routes.

He said the government set aside RM23 mil for the compensation, which was fully paid out by Dec 31. He also said former staff were offered jobs at the Land Public Transport Agency (APAD), which replaced SPAD effective Jan 1, as well as other agencies such as the Road Transport Department (JPJ) "There are about 300 vacant jobs at APAD and another 300 jobs available at JPJ, which will be filled up by former SPAD staff." Even if all these places are filled, we will still help them get the jobs at government-linked companies like Khazanah Nasional Bhd or Malaysia Airport Holdings Bhd," he said. Loke said at the moment, only about 30 % of them have not received offers and the ministry was working hard to get it sorted out within this month.

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