

Disabled drivers can apply for PSV licence

Disabled drivers can apply for their Public Service Vehicle (PSV) licence from May onwards. Under regulations, disabled drivers are not allowed to apply for the PSV license. Transport Minister Anthony Loke said there were 300 to 400 disabled drivers registered with e-hailing operators.

“It’s a policy matter and we are doing it immediately. We hope that by May, disabled drivers can register for the PSV licence. “We are talking about 300 to 400 disabled drivers registered with e-hailing operators. They will be given priority for undergoing the courses,” he said after launching Grab’s passenger verification feature here yesterday.

He said the process to amend the PSV regulations is being done to ensure that come July 12, when the regulations for e-hailing operators come into force, disabled drivers can continue to drive. “From now to July 12, there will not be any enforcement. They (disabled drivers) have been driving for years since Grab first started.”

On March 31, Loke said his ministry had held discussions with e-hailing companies and would consider amending the regulations to include drivers with disabilities. Loke said the ministry would not extend the July 12 deadline for e-hailing drivers to undergo the PSV course to obtain the licence.

“The industry is being legalised and regulated so that you will have a more secure environment to operate in. “We do not want the industry to remain continuously in dispute as there are already fights between traditional taxis and e-hailing operators. “We hope that everyone can cooperate. Look at the long-term benefits. You only need to take up the course for licence once and the next year onwards, it’s just a matter of renewing the licence.”

He said of the 25 e-hailing operators who have registered to obtain the PSV licence, 16 had been given approval. He said more than 1,000 e-hailing drivers had already applied for the PSV licence and urged others to not wait until the last minute.

PSV, which costs RM115 per year, is a vocational driving licence that allows one to drive any type of commercial vehicle used by paying passengers such as taxis and buses. E-hailing drivers who undergo the PSV exam will be subjected to background screenings, medical checkups, and undergo a special six-hour driving training module, costing RM200 per person, at driving school or companies accredited by the Land Transport Agency (APAD).

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