

No foreigners at the wheel

Companies must only hire locals as bus and lorry drivers, says Liow

BANGI: Bus and lorry companies must not allow their foreign workers to drive commercial vehicles, or risk having their business licences revoked.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said that only locals can drive commercial vehicles. "We are very strict on that. "We have reminded bus and lorry companies that they must employ locals," he told reporters after attending the opening ceremony of University Kebangsaan Malaysia's (UKM) Wall of Fame here, yesterday.

He said the government would consider revoking employers' licences should they fail to follow the rules. "Tourists who are here on a social visit pass can drive if they have a valid driving licence, but not commercial vehicles," he added.

Liow was commenting on a recent report that the Road Transport Department (RTD) had detained 166 foreign nationals, comprising Indonesians and Myanmar, for driving commercial vehicles since January.

A total of 352 summonses were also issued while 168 commercial vehicles were impounded during the period. The foreign nationals, aged 20 to 45 years, were nabbed in a special operation in the Klang Valley recently.

On another matter, Liow said the government also urged the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to expedite the investigation to hunt down those responsible for shooting down the ill-fated MH17 flight in 2014.

"The Prime Minister has met Putin. This is a good start. We have also got cooperation from Russia to know the real situation. "We must find out who brought our plane down," he said. On the upcoming by-elections, Liow said MCA pledges full support for candidates chosen by the Barisan Nasional Chairman to contest.

Liow, who is also MCA president, said that the preparation was going on well and the party has had a series of meetings in Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar.

"We give our 100% support to the candidates selected by our chairman as we are confident that he will select the best person to win the elections," he said. "These by-elections mean a lot to us because we know that voters there want to see new development under the leadership of Barisan," he said, adding that MCA would go all out to garner the Chinese community support for Barisan.