

Road Safety task force gives nod for AWAS and Kejara

PUTRAJAYA: The cabinet task force on road safety yesterday agreed to implement measures to address road accidents and fatalities in the country.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the key areas included the implementation of the Automated Awareness Safety System (AWAS) and Kejara Demerit Points System.

"During the meeting, several key areas were covered, with a view towards execution in the near term. They include the standardisation of the maximum permitted weight of commercial vehicles; evaluation of road safety and accident investigation on the East Coast Expressway 2 and its recommendations on improvements; and execution of the International Road Safety Assessment Programme and implementation of its framework.

"The meeting unanimously agreed that these are urgent measures that need to be put in place, given that road accidents and fatalities continue to escalate."

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi. Liow said the task force served as a platform to reassess and determine effective measures in the country's road safety efforts.

He said Malaysia recorded 489,606 accidents and 6,706 deaths on roads last year. "This is an increase from 2014, and the economic loss incurred was in excess of RM8 billion. The alarming statistics continue to be addressed by the government.

"With the new measures, to be implemented, we are hopeful that the number of accidents and fatalities will drop." Liow said the task force could not achieve its goals if the people and non-governmental organisations did not play their role in addressing the matter.

He urged motorists to be responsible in ensuring their own safety, as well as that of others. During the meeting, the task force, was briefed on road safety initiatives and 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. The road safety education module was also presented.

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