

Liow: Traffic fines not to line coffers

KUALA LUMPUR: Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai has chided allegations that authorities are imposing traffic fines and compounds as a way to collect more fund from the public.

The MCA president denied that Putrajaya is strapped for cash, and said the fines are a way to educate the public and prevent traffic offences. "This is untrue. The Opposition would twist this and say we compound people because we don't have money," he said yesterday while launching 2018 road safety campaign at MyTown Shopping Centre here.

"The truth is summonses are a way to educate and prevent the public from committing traffic offences." Liow also said the ministry is planning to add more Automated Enforcement System (AES) cameras in the future as it had proven to increase compliance to 95 per cent since its inception in 2016.

"We initially installed 14 and added another seven last year at accident-prone areas nationwide which we dub the blackspots," he said. Liow said the number of deaths caused by road accidents have decreased from 7,152 in 2016 to 6,740 last year.

He said the reduced figure was proof that road safety campaigns over the years were effective. "We are still not satisfied and we aim to reduce the number of deaths by 10 per cent annually," he said.

Liow said accidents involving motorcycles still have the highest number of fatalities, in comparison with other types of vehicles. "Out of the 6,740 deaths last year, 64.5 per cent or 4,348 of them are motorcyclists," he said.

He revealed that the index of death per 10,000 registered vehicles have also dropped from 2.59 in 2016 to 2.34 last year. "Our target is to reduce the index to 2.0 just like any other developed nation.

I think we can achieve it, with continuous efforts by various agencies and support from road users," he said.