

states can request to install AES

HUTAN MELINTANG: The Transport Ministry has said it will install the Automated Enforcement System (AES) – a world-class electronic tracking system that captures traffic violations – along roads only if they receive a request from the relevant local authority.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai, said if there is no request made by the local authority and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the exercise would not be implemented. "However, the AES is important to safeguard the lives of road users and reduce the number of traffic accidents.

If local authorities find any hotspot areas in their respective states, they could make the request. "We will cooperate with any party that wishes to have the AES, as this is part of a preventive measure to reduce accident cases in the country," Liow said after launching the "MyPerak" WeChat messenger application at Bao An Gong Temple here today.

Asked on Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng's position that no AES cameras or sensors will be installed in his state, Liow said Lim should focus on saving lives and not politicise the issue.

"I think he should be concerned about how to help the rakyat and how to reduce the number of accident cases. There is no point in politicising the installation of the AES. "This is a rhetorical polemic. We should put aside all the political affiliation.

What is more important is to reduce the number of accident cases," he said, adding that any state government could make suggestions on how to lessen road accidents. It was reported on Tuesday that Lim firmly stated that no AES cameras will be allowed to be installed in Penang.

Besides downplaying the effectiveness of the AES, Lim blamed the Transport Minister for traffic accidents. "We know accidents happen. But that is because the Minister is not working!" Lim was quoted as saying in a Facebook posting.