

Electric bicycles: So, can we use them?

QUESTION :

NST

APR 11, 2011

PG 21

FIRST, the transport minister and the director of the Road Transport Department announced that they were preparing a paper recommending a ban on the electric bicycle.

Then, the Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Peter Chin Fah Kui announced that electric bicycles would not be banned ("No banning of electric vehicles" -- NST, March 17).

Now, I am confused about the status of electric bicycles? Why hasn't the transport minister made a formal announcement? Are electric bicycles banned or not?

Despite many letters in the newspapers with regard to electric bicycles, the ministry has been keeping mum on this matter.

I hope the Transport Ministry will be transparent when handling public matters.

I.B.K.B. , Batu Caves, Selangor

ANSWER :

NST

APR 14, 2011

PG 21

Electric bicycles: Safety issue under study

I REFER to the letters on electric bicycles by I.B.K.B. "So, can we use them?" and Paul Singh "Have special laws" (NST, April 11).

I wish to convey the ministry's sincere appreciation to the writers, especially to Paul, for giving deeper thought to this issue and considering the present situation in Malaysia and the implications on public safety. We share similar concerns.

Various agencies, including the Attorney-General's Chambers, Road Transport Department, Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research and Road Safety Department Malaysia are conducting a study on electric bicycles and getting public feedback, which will be taken into consideration in formulating the regulations.

The findings from the study will be submitted to the cabinet for a final decision.

The electric bicycle will be accepted as a bicycle and the regulations governing it will not be very complicated but will follow international standards.

The electric bicycle will be allowed on the road. The government does not want to make it difficult for the public to get approval for it.

However, the safety of road users is our main concern.

DATUK SERI KONG CHO HA,
Transport minister