

In the dark over tinted glass ruling

QUESTION :

THE STAR

JAN 10, 2010

MANY countries around the world and even our neighbours have started to allow 50% tinting on their vehicles. Singapore allows it for the back passenger windows and rear window while the front must be less than 40%.

The impact is that when a car is tinted and kept cool in this manner, it allows the vehicle to burn lesser fuel. It also helps the environment.

Around the world people want their privacy and tinting deters robbers from seeing what is inside the vehicles.

If the JPJ wants to act against drivers of vehicles with tinted glass, then why are government vehicles or those belonging to officials allowed to go against the ban on heavily tinted glass? Why the double standards?

DARTVADER,

Seremban.

FEEDBACK :

I refer to the letter by DARTVADAR, Seremban 'In the dark over tinted glass ruling' (The Star, Januari 10, 2010).

Contrary to what most people believe, every owner of a motor vehicle are allowed to tint their windscreen glass, side windows and rear glass. Rule 5(1) of the Motor Vehicles (Prohibition of Certain Types of Glass) Rules, 1991 allows windscreen of a vehicle to be tinted but must permit transmission of at least seventy percent (70%) visible light. Whereas for other side windows including rear glass must permit fifty percent (50%) light transmission.

Under the same rule, the Transport Minister can grant exemption in writing to vehicle owners who apply to use tinted glasses above the permitted level mentioned above. Exemptions can be considered only on security or health reasons subject to compliance of the terms and conditions that have been laid down by the minister.

On the issue of government vehicles and officials having heavy tint, it must be made clear here that no blanket exemption exist. Even government departments and agencies write in applications to install heavy tint on the basis of security reasons. As we all can imagine, an enforcement agency might need to have some of its vehicles tinted dark, whether to whisk suspects around or intelligence gathering on cases and any security related matters.

This department takes seriously any complaints by the public on this matter, be it private owned cars or government vehicles. Double standard enforcement is never in intent as our records shows that in 2009, a total of 426 cases were detected in Putrajaya where 90% of the vehicle population is government owned or belong to its employees. The public is welcomed to submit their complaints on heavy tinted vehicles for us to call in the owners and inspect their vehicles. However, responsibility over complaints must be emphasized here as we do not

wish for the innocent to be called in. Complaints can be made via email at aduan@jpi.gov.my or simply by calling our Operations Control number 03-88866412.

Thank you.

Noraini Mohd Nawi

Public Relations Officer

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Putrajaya.