
More can be done to prevent road accidents, says expert

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PETALING JAYA: Tackling speeding and enhancing road safety can be addressed by strengthening the Road Transport Department's Demerit Points System for Traffic Offences (Kejara), says an expert.

Assoc Prof Law Teik Hua said this could be done on top of imposing fines as a deterrent.

"Beyond the imposition of fines, the revised system should incorporate stricter consequences, such as the automatic withdrawal

or suspension of the driving licence for repeat offenders.

"This serves as a powerful deterrent, sending a clear message that habitual speeding will result in tangible and severe consequences," said Law, who heads Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) Road Safety Research Centre.

Law said one of the key concerns identified in the centre's study was the rear-end visibility of motorcycles, especially during low-light conditions.

To address this, Law proposed a targeted solution involving the widespread use of reflective stickers positioned above the rear of

motorcycle lamps.

"This practical intervention is designed to significantly enhance visibility, especially during low-light conditions or adverse weather," he said.

Law also proposed the enhancement of motorcycle lane infrastructure.

He said it is essential to invest in the expansion and improvement of dedicated motorcycle lanes.

He said a comprehensive review of the design and connectivity of the lanes is necessary to ensure their effectiveness.

"Expanding the network of motorcycle lanes provides a safer

space for motorcyclists."

To address elderly drivers' safety, Law proposed a graduated driving licensing system for the group, adding that there are successful models in developed countries like Japan.

"This introduces specific requirements and restrictions based on age, gradually adapting driving privileges to the evolving needs of older individuals," he said.

On Monday, *The Star* reported that the number of road accidents nationwide had spiked, catching up with pre-pandemic levels.

Police said 598,635 road acci-

dents were reported nationwide from Jan 1 to Dec 30 last year.

This number is 5.5% higher than the 567,516 road accidents recorded in 2019, the year before the Covid-19 pandemic.

There has also been a spike in road deaths – from 6,080 in 2022. The number rose to 6,433 last year.

To this, Selangor Road Safety Council permanent member Tengku Ahmad Marwan Tengku Mahmud called for a "complete review" of the driving curriculum, adding that this is needed to produce drivers with higher competency.