

# Police consider safety upgrades after fatal FRU truck crash

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Police have identified several safety enhancement measures for personnel travelling in trucks, following the tragic crash that claimed the lives of nine Federal Reserve Unit (FRU) members in Perak last Tuesday.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Razarudin Husain said discussions would be held with the Internal Security and Public Order Department as it also utilises trucks to transport General Operations Force personnel. Among the proposed improvements is the implementation of a better safety system to protect passengers in these trucks.

However, Razarudin noted that the current design of long bench seating in the vehicles may not be compatible with such systems.

Another measure under consideration is the use of buses and police patrol vehicles to escort convoys transporting personnel.

The move comes as renewed scrutiny falls on outdated transport practices across enforcement agencies.

The recent incident has sparked widespread calls for a comprehensive review of how government personnel are transported.

Road safety experts have pointed to flaws in vehicle design and operational procedures.

Universiti Putra Malaysia's Road Safety Research Centre head Assoc Prof Dr Law Teik Hua was quoted as saying that a full audit of transport safety procedures is long overdue.

He suggested that zoning operations, assigning certain vehicles only to short distances or controlled areas, could reduce risk.

He also voiced concern over reports that some FRU trucks are not equipped with seatbelts or proper restraints in the rear compartments, describing the omission as a major safety lapse that leaves personnel highly vulnerable in the event of a crash or rollover.

The fatal crash occurred at 8.50am along Jalan Chikus-Sungai Lampam, when a truck

carrying FRU Unit 5 personnel from Sungai Senam, Ipoh, collided with a lorry loaded with gravel.

The lorry's steering system is believed to have failed, leading to the collision.

The intense impact killed nine FRU personnel, eight from Perak and one from Kedah.

Their identities were released by police and confirmed by Perak police chief Datuk Noor Hisam Nordin.

Meanwhile, the lorry driver involved in the crash has been remanded for four days beginning Wednesday.

He is being investigated under Section 41 of the Road Transport Act 1987 for causing death by reckless or dangerous driving.

If convicted, he faces between two and 10 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to RM50,000, and disqualification from holding or obtaining a driving licence for no less than five years.  
— Bernama