

Radin to head independent panel probing bus crash

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PETALING JAYA: Universiti Putra Malaysia vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Radin Umar Radin Sohadi will head an independent inquiry board investigating the high-decked bus crash in Cameron Highlands on Dec 20 last year which left 28 passengers dead.

In a statement yesterday, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha said the Cabinet had agreed on the appointment of Prof Radin, who has a PhD in traffic safety engineering and a Master's in transport and traffic engineering.

Prof Radin was also the former director-general of the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (Miros). "We hope to come out with collective and preventive actions to be recommended to ensure such accidents do not occur in future," said Prof Radin.

He said the board will meet as soon as its members receive their appointment letters.

He said the inquiry board would look into all aspects of the accident before making recommendations to the Government.

"One of the main aspects would be crash worthiness and others like road condition, vehicle maintenance, safety and health and crash prevention," he said.

Other committee members are representatives from the Malaysian Institute of Transportation, Institute of Engineering Malaysia, Road Engineering Association of Malaysia, Federation of Malaysia Consumers Association (Fomca) and mechanical engineering consultant Datuk Foong Choy Chye.

Kong said the committee's terms of reference was to study or identify the cause of the accident and get statements from accident survivors, witnesses and rescue officers.