

# 'MICROMOBILITY VEHICLE BAN APT'

E-scooters, mopeds not suited for roads, users may lack knowledge in handling them, says expert

NURADZIMMAH DAIM  
KUALA LUMPUR  
news@nst.com.my

**T**HE ban on micromobility vehicles and aids on public roads is a good step towards reducing road injuries, say experts.

Road safety expert Associate Professor Dr Law Teik Hua from Universiti Putra Malaysia said e-scooters and moped were not suited for use on roads as they performed differently in terms of speed and manoeuvrability, compared with motorcycles and cars.

These vehicles differed significantly in appearance and size, increasing traffic flow variability and road crash risk, he said.

"They are less visible than others due to these factors, especially if the users are weaving



People using micromobility vehicles at Dataran Merdeka, Kuala Lumpur, recently.

PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS



Associate Professor  
Dr Law Teik Hua

through traffic. Users do not need a driver's licence to operate these vehicles. As a result, they lack sufficient knowledge on how to drive the vehicle as well as traffic regulations.

"Furthermore, children and young teenagers are unfamiliar with the transport environment. They are also exposed to the possibility of a traffic accident and

injuries due to a lack of adequate protection, such as reflective jacket and helmet," he said yesterday.

He said the vehicles were meant for leisure purpose at designated locations like parks and private areas.

Dedicated lanes for the machines, he said, would need further discussions between the Transport Ministry and the local governments.

"The special lanes should be

separated from the roads. It can be allowed for short distance travels in the city centre, like from the workplace and restaurants located within a few hundred metres.

"As it is, we are dealing with children racing on bicycles on the road, which saw accidents occurring in the past. We must not add another problem on the road," he said, adding that manufacturers

should not be allowed to sell such vehicles that did not meet the requirements of law.

Meanwhile, traffic psychologist Professor Dr Rozmi Ismail from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia said such a ban was necessary in protecting the people's safety, especially children.

"It is in the nature of the young generation to seek adventure. Every developmental stage has their own culture, which involves risk-taking activities, as we see in the *basikal lajak* or modified bicycle trend among schoolchildren.

"On one hand, these children are happy when they are on the road. On the other hand, it poses great danger to them and other road users."

He also urged the government to carry out checks and enforcement on workshops that offered modification services for micromobility vehicles.



Professor Dr Rozmi  
Ismail

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong had said the ban was in accordance with the Road Traffic (Prohibition of Use of Certain Micromobility Vehicles) Rules 2021, which came into

force on Dec 17 last year.

Meanwhile, the use of bicycles, trishaws and electric bicycles that met the Malaysia Standard MS2514: Electric Bicycles Specifications were allowed.