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Senate-Traffic
MORE POWERS TO JPJ DG ON THE CARDS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 29 (Bernama) -- Road Transport Department (JPJ) director-general will be empowered to suspend the driving licence of drivers booked for reckless driving and causing fatal accidents before they were hauled up to court under proposed amendments to the Road Transport Act 1987.

Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam told the Dewan Negara today that the amendments also empowered courts to suspend the driving licence of the accused until the case was over.

The government proposed to increase the fine to RM30,000 or a jail term not exceeding 10 years' or both on drivers causing fatal accidents, he told M.G. Pandithan during Question Time.

Under existing provisions, such drivers were liable to a fine not exceeding RM10,000 or jail not more than five years' or both, upon conviction.

Mohd Ali said the proposed amendments involved Section 41, 42, 43, 44 and 45A of the Act.

He said although the present provisions and penalties were considered adequate, the ministry felt the amendments were inevitable to ensure the enforcement would be a deterrent to offenders.

Replying to a supplementary question from Senator Haji Abu Bakar Ismail who wanted to know the effectiveness of road safety campaigns, Mohamed Ali said the ministry planned to launch a campaign for motorcyclists in July or August.

He said the campaign would be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The campaign was tailored specially for motorcyclists as 60 per cent of the fatal incidents in the country involved motorcyclists and pillion riders.

Similar campaigns would also be launched at state and district levels to instil awareness on motorcyclists on the need to observe road regulations. -- BERNAMA

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