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Train mishap report rejected

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THE Transport Ministry has rejected a KTM Bhd report pertaining to an accident in which a north-bound train killed six family members at a railway crossing in Bukit Siput, Segamat on December 31 last year.

It's minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik told reporters after the weekly Cabinet meeting that the report he received from the investigation committee was incomplete and not thorough enough.

"I have read the report and I am very disappointed with it because it is an unsatisfactory and poor report.

"A lot of key witnesses were not called upon to give evidence, and I therefore take it as an incomplete report," he said.

"Since there are many questions that have gone unanswered, I am rejecting it and under the powers vested in Section 46 and 47 of the Railway Act 1991, I will be constituting another investigation into the cause of the accident and the possible remedies," he added.

Ling said he had spoken to the Director-General of the Department of Railways who was also not satisfied with the report, and who recommended that another committee be set up.

The minister added that the second committee will be set up as soon as possible and that he has someone in mind to lead the investigation but declined to reveal his name.

"I have someone in mind, but I have not consulted him yet, so its better not to reveal who he is," he said, adding that he presumed the new committee will carry out its investigations and submit a report to him as soon as possible without compromising on thoroughness and completeness.

The accident which involved a collision between a north-bound train and a car which was crossing the railway track at the Bukit Siput railway crossing in Segamat.

Meanwhile, KTM Bhd managing director Datuk Abdul Rahim Osman said he was not able to comment because he needed to get more details on the matter first.

Ling also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed will be launching the "motorcycle safety campaign" aimed at motorcyclists from both the rural and urban areas on August 22 this year.

He said the main aim of the campaign is to encourage motorcyclists to wear their crash helmets and have the lights on at all times.

He added that a committee comprising officials from the Ministry of Transport, the Road Transport Department and motorcycle manufacturers had been set up to plan the launch.

He said although the venue for the launch has not been decided yet, it will be somewhere in Kuala Lumpur. The campaign will stretch for two years.

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