

Youths make up nearly 50% of road deaths, says PM

BERA: Youths accounted for almost 50% of the 14,308 road accident death cases recorded in two years from 2019, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday.

He said road accidents were among the main causes of deaths in the country, with an average of 4,769 lives lost each year during the period.

The high youth figure is also a major challenge for enforcers in curbing the tragic trend.

"Youths have a bright future and are needed by the nation but they were the most affected group. A driving licence should help us facilitate movement, especially to make a living. We hope those who obtain it will be disciplined when riding their motorcycles," he said.

Ismail Sabri was speaking at the Malaysian Family Driving Licence Aid Programme at the Bera Rakan Muda Complex here yesterday, which saw 404 Orang Asli residents from the district selected under the programme to acquire a motorcycle driving licence at minimal cost.

Also present were Road Transport Department (RTD) director-general Datuk Zailani Hashim and Pahang Public Works, Transport and Health Committee chairman Datuk Seri Norolazali Sulaiman.

To curb the road accident death rate, Ismail Sabri said RTD should have more advocacy and engagement programmes in line with the government's desire to bring down road accident fatalities by 50% by 2030.

Meanwhile, commenting on the programme Ismail Sabri said it was especially for those in need such as the B40 group and the Orang Asli community who have difficulties attending classes at driving training institutes.

"The programme is aimed at assisting them as we know they have to go through some procedures to get the licence. Nonetheless, the programme incorporates the training and course needed for them to become motorcycle riders in compliance with the law," he said.

Based on a media statement by Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Henry Sum Agong, the programme criteria includes being a Malaysian aged 16 and above, who is physically and mentally healthy with no physical disabilities.

Apart from that, the candidate should not be blacklisted by the RTD or police as well as not holding any vehicle driving licence.

- Bernama