

**DAP MPs advocate integrated national transport policy**  
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**By Emily Ding**

KUALA LUMPUR, May 15 — Two DAP lawmakers have called for the Transport Ministry to draw up a holistic national transport policy in anticipation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's Cabinet appointments later today.

To facilitate this objective, DAP's Kluang MP Liew Chin Tong and Bukit Bintang MP Fong Kui Lun also appealed for the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD) to be placed under the Transport Ministry's purview, instead of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"I urge the prime minister to put SPAD under the Transport Ministry so that the Transport Ministry can regulate the entire transport sector to come up with a national transport policy... and public transport has to be the most important component of this policy," Liew said outside SPAD's headquarters here today after a meeting with SPAD chairman Tan Sri Syed Hamid Albar.

"That is one of our wish list for today's Cabinet. The new Cabinet must have a strong Transport Ministry... transportation is key to urban wellbeing," he added.

There exists a national automotive policy, while SPAD has mooted a national public transport policy, but there is not yet a "integrated and synergised" national policy encompassing all forms of transport, Liew told The Malaysian Insider.

Syed Hamid told The Malaysian Insider that a draft of the National Land Public Transport Masterplan is already up on its website ([spad.gov.my](http://spad.gov.my)) to garner feedback from the industry, and that it would be submitted to the government sometime this year for approval.

Liew said the catalyst to his call for a national transport policy today was Monday's announcement by Syed Hamid that city taxis may now drop off and pick up passengers from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), which he said was "the right move in the right direction".

However, he said that the competitiveness of Airport Limo (M) Sdn Bhd taxi drivers, who had until now enjoyed a monopoly on collecting KLIA passengers, would be adversely affected, and appealed to SPAD to step in and regulate the agreement between the company and its employees.

He pointed out that city taxi drivers only pay about RM50 a day on car and permit rentals compared to Airport Limo taxi drivers who pay RM153 daily as per the agreement drawn between them and their employer, which comes up to about RM270,000 in five years.

For this reason Liew has appealed to SPAD to step in to negotiate more favourable terms for the drivers. "They are squeezed on many fronts."

He said that Syed Hamid had agreed to look into the DAP's proposal and that he would continue to engage SPAD on the matter.

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/dap-mps-advocate-integrated-national-transport-policy/>