

## **Appoint transport expert to head SPAD, taxi boss urges PM**

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**By Minderjeet Kaur**

### **Big Blue Taxi founder says he is writing to Land Public Transport Commission to request for a meeting with Isa Samad in order to brief him on industry.**

SHAH ALAM: Big Blue Taxi founder Shamsubahrin Ismail has urged Prime Minister Najib Razak to appoint a transport industry expert to head the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD), instead of career politician Isa Samad.

He said the industry needs a person familiar with its management and transformation issues, and who has a background in related enforcement and legal matters.

He said former Felda Global Ventures Holdings (FGV) chairman Isa Samad, who was made acting chairman of SPAD on June 19, was not the right candidate for the agency.

“I am shocked that Isa Samad with no background in public transport has been appointed.

“There are a lot of candidates with experience and knowledge in the transport industry available for the job,” he told FMT.

Isa was appointed to the position on the same day he tendered his resignation from FGV after a meeting with Najib in Putrajaya.

His new appointment as acting chairman of SPAD sees him succeeding Syed Hamid Albar who retired from the position on June 3.

Isa and his wife Bibi Sharliza Mohd Khalid were summoned to give statements to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) at its headquarters in Putrajaya, to help in its graft-related investigations on FGV, where they were questioned for three hours on June 21.

Shamsubahrin said it was still not too late to appoint someone else as SPAD chairman.

“We are getting a leader who does not know anything about the industry. I hope the prime minister will listen to the voice of the industry,” he said.

He added that he will be writing to SPAD soon, requesting for a closed-door meeting to brief Isa on the industry.

“It will be weird to brief Isa on public transportation because he does not know about the industry. I hope he understands what I am putting forward,” Shamsubahrin said.

He also said although Big Blue Taxi has not been invited to participate in a protest to be held by taxi drivers against Isa’s appointment, he hoped they would not conduct it on the streets.

“I believe the protest should not happen even though we don’t like the leader,” he said.

It was reported that some 700 to 800 taxi drivers in the Klang Valley will launch the protest as they want someone “clean” for the post.

Klang Valley Taxi Drivers Action Committee chairman Zailani Isausuludin was reported as saying that the protest will take place in front of the Petaling Jaya Civic Hall on July 3.

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