



Persatuan Pengguna Pulau Pinang Consumers Association of Penang

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Press Statement

31 January 2020

CAP: Tighten laws and enforcement and apply them without regard to social status

Ops Selamat 16/2020 saw 171 fatalities at the end of 11 days. The number of crashes had increased by 10% from 15,464 last year to 16,940. The trauma suffered by family members of the injured as well as the dead is unthinkable. Road accidents bleed our country of an estimated RM9 billion annually. Therefore, Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP) calls on the authorities to tighten the laws as well as enforcement and apply them consistently and without regard to social status.

The festival season also saw two crashes caused by drink driving. According to studies in the past driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs has been worrisome.

Although the authorities have finally decided to tighten the laws on drink driving, they should take a look at the situation in Sweden, a Scandinavian country where it was a tradition to drink to intoxication. Today, however, Sweden has the lowest rate of alcohol abuse and drink driving in Europe, because the Swedish government defeated the drinking culture and replaced it with a culture of sober driving.

In Sweden if a person had consumed alcohol no matter how much, he does not drive. Full stop. Fines are based upon how much money you have in the bank. That can really hurt, and that makes everyone think twice about getting behind the wheel after drinking.

Repeat offenders have their vehicle impounded and scrapped. In general, drunk driving is seen as a detestable crime, and people don't do it in Sweden.

The Swedish government vehicles are fitted with devices that prevent ignition key from starting the vehicle if there is any trace of alcohol detected.

In Malaysia our laws need tightening and more importantly the authorities need to ensure that they are implemented consistently and fairly without regard to the status of a person. The habit of giving discounts for summonses should cease immediately. This culture should not be encouraged at all.

Police should be keep tabs of places where drinking parties are held and check the drivers leaving the premises.

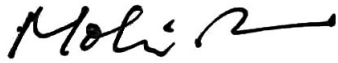
In every road accident statistics, motorcyclists contribute about 60 % of the fatalities. Unfortunately the age group of 16 to 30 are the most affected. Therefore, the government must encourage the use of public transport by making it affordable and convenient nationwide.

CAP calls on the transport authorities to take the following measures:

1. Tighten the existing laws;
2. Enforce the laws consistently and fairly;
3. Make it mandatory for public transport vehicle and private cars to be installed with alcohol

sensing devices that will prevent a drunken driver from starting his vehicle;

4. Police should watch premises that are known to hold drinking parties and test the drivers leaving;
5. Encourage more motorists to migrate to public transport.



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