

Call to step up enforcement against youngsters recklessly riding 'basikal lajak'

By [Dhesegean Bala Krishnan](#) - April 19, 2022 @ 4:54pm



A social activist has urged authorities to step up enforcement against youngsters recklessly riding modified bicycles or "basikal lajak" on the roads. - BERNAMA file pic.

KUALA LUMPUR: A social activist has urged authorities to step up enforcement against youngsters recklessly riding modified bicycles or "basikal lajak" on the roads.

Alliance for Safe Community chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said enforcement officers should take the youngsters caught in the act back home and hold their parents accountable for their children's offence.

If necessary, he said the authorities should call the parents and children for counselling.

"Parents have adopted a lackadaisical attitude on matters related to safety of their children.

"Despite the attention garnered by the 'basikal lajak' issue recently, such activities are still rampant on our roads, with some children even rolling on the roads while cars are passing by.

"These kids have gone brazen because they do not face any repercussions for their misbehaviour.

"Usually, when authorities round up these children, they let them go with a mere warning. The moment the cops are out of sight, these children return to the roads to perform their 'stunts'.

"If this trend is not stemmed, it is only a matter of time before these 'mat lajak' 'graduate' into 'mat rempits', endangering public safety and putting more lives at risk," he told the New Straits Times.

Authorities, he said, should also remind parents about the Child Protection Act 2001 that subjects parents to punishment, if their negligence endangers their children's lives.

"If the parents continue to be negligent, then they should be taken to court. We can no longer entertain arguments that these parents hail from poor households and therefore, cannot pay fines issued by authorities.

"To me, this is a very irrational argument. Should these parents continue to escape penalties for their negligence just because they are poor? Can't they see that this is a question of life and death?

"Authorities should relook at their current responses and carry out necessary follow-up actions to hold parents accountable for their children's safety," he said.

Lee also urged enforcement units to issue compounds against bicycle workshops that make illegal and dangerous modifications to bicycles.

"Modified bicycles should not even be on our roads. It is high time for our authorities to see to this," he added.

The "basikal lajak" issue became a national sensation after the Johor Baru High Court overturned a Magistrate's Court decision on April 13 and sentenced a clerk, Sam Ke Ting, to six years' jail and fined her RM6,000 for causing the death of eight "basikal lajak" cyclists in 2017.