

# JPJ: New guidelines to help disabled

Department to review requirements that make it difficult for community to get driving licence

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THE Road Transport Department (JPJ) will come up with new guidelines to address issues that the disabled face in obtaining a driving licence.

Department director-general Datuk Seri Nadzri Siron said he was concerned about these problems which were highlighted in *StarMetro* on June 19.

"Our department engages with the disabled community over issues pertaining to transportation. We will hold a meeting with representatives of the disabled community soon and come up with guidelines," Nadzri said when contacted.

It was earlier reported that only one driving school in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, had experienced instructors to teach the disabled how to drive.

Most driving schools in the country lack disabled-friendly facilities and the location for theory examinations is usually not wheelchair-friendly either.

Unlike the able-bodied, disabled people are required to bring their own vehicles for lessons and during the test.

This adds to their financial burden as many cannot afford to modify their vehicles or pay for driving lessons.

Fazlan Ismail, 37, suffered spinal injury in an accident and is wheelchair-bound. He wants to get a driving licence in order to be less dependent on his family. But he cannot afford to modify his motorcycle and is put off by the tedious process of getting a licence.



An ordeal to obtain licence

The disabled are being made to suffer additional hassle at the Changkat Road Transport Department in Klang. (StarMetro)

StarMetro's report on June 19.

"I would need to modify my vehicle and pay for driving lessons," said the father of two.

Fazlan works at a training centre for the disabled in Bangi and relies on his wife for transport.

"It would be great if we could get some form of assistance to make driving lessons more affordable," he said.

He had gone to a driving school in Wangsa Maju but was discouraged by all the requirements.

He said many disabled people sometimes drove modified cars belonging to their friends although they did not have a licence.

Noor Janah Ahmad, 54, was a chicken seller who had her right leg amputated due to an infection in 2015.

The single mother of one said she could afford to modify her car and pay for driving lessons.



Wheelchair-bound Fazlan must rely on his wife for transport as he finds the process to get a driving licence too costly and tedious.

"I wish I could drive again so that I can earn a living," said Noor Janah, who lives in Sungai Petani, Kedah and depends on her relatives for financial support as she currently has no source of income.

Ahmad Daniel Sharani, 41, was left paralysed from waist down after an accident at the age of 18.

He said most driving schools did not want their instructors to take the risk and would rather not teach the disabled.

"The instructors worry as they cannot control the brakes for modified cars used by the disabled.

"In the case of vehicles used by the able-bodied, instructors can control the brakes from the front passenger's side," he said.

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