

70% of road accidents in Malaysia are due to brake failure

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KUALA LUMPUR: Some 70 percent of road accidents involving motorists is due to mechanical failure of the vehicles, especially the brake system. Kuala Lumpur traffic police chief, DSP Abdullah Roning said the number of accidents could be reduced if owners inspect their vehicles once every six months at Puspakom.

“Brake failure in heavy vehicles such as buses and lorries occurred because the drivers took the matter lightly,” he told Bernama here today. Last week, a couple were killed after a school bus crashed into the rear of their motorcycle in Kampung Datuk Keramat, believed due to brake failure.

The tragic accident in Jalan 15/56 AU 3, involved nine vehicles – two buses, five cars and two motorcycles. Abdullah said the brake system needs regular maintenance, particularly for heavy vehicles that go through traffic congestion daily.

“Motorists trapped in this situation will often slam the brakes and poor maintenance can result in failure.

“Drivers who overtake on double lines, speed and use mobile phones increased the risk of accidents but the statistics are small compared to brake failure,” he added.

Peninsular Malaysia Road Transport Officers Union president, Hamzah Masri urged authorities to repair damaged roads especially those with potholes. He said poor road conditions increased the risk of accidents among road users especially during heavy traffic in the run up to Aidilfitri festival.

“Accidents can occur anywhere. As such, roads have to be maintained and efforts must not only focus on the highways,” he added.