

# 55,000 CAUGHT DRIVING WITHOUT LICENCE

Most involved parents allowing underage kids to drive, says RTD official

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**S**OME 55,000 offences recorded by the Road Transport Department (RTD) in the first five months of this year involved those driving without a licence.

RTD deputy director-general (planning and operations) Aedly Fadly Ramli said most of the offences involved parents allowing their underage children to drive without a licence.

"I am disappointed with the attitude of some people who continue to do this without considering the risks and dangers posed to other road users. They gave all kinds of excuses.

"We found that there has been no significant change on the matter over the last four years."

Aedly Fadli said this after taking part in an integrated oper-



Road Transport Department officers mounting a roadblock in Kuala Terengganu last month. FILE PIC

ation on commercial and trade vehicles at the Kijal enforcement station near here on Friday night.

The operation, which involved agencies such as the Immigration

Department and the National Anti-Drugs Agency, saw 580 vehicles inspected and 133 vehicle owners issued summonses for offences, including having an expired driving licence and

driving without a licence. Present were Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Henry Sum and Terengganu RTD director Zulka-main Yasin. Aedly Fadli added that 347,300

offences were also committed by those driving vehicles without a driving licence from January 2009 to May this year.

"Any owner who defaults may be subject to Section 26 (1) of the Road Transport Act 1987, which involves a fine of not less than RM300 and not more than RM3,000, or imprisonment for a maximum three months or both."

He said RTD would not hesitate to take more serious action by seizing vehicles.

Alliance for Safe Community chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said the RTD report could not be ignored.

Parents, he said, must not allow underage children to drive.

Lee said allowing underage children to take the wheel did not only pose a danger to them but also to other road users.

"Imagine them driving without a licence and getting involved in an accident.

"So parents should not allow underage children to drive, or they will have to bear the responsibility."

He said more needed to be done to stop underage children from driving.

He said it was crucial to increase awareness about the importance of having a driving licence.