

Minister inspects electronic system set up at SPD centre

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THE Land Transport System (SPD) training sessions, which started September 5 this year, yesterday came under the scrutiny of the Minister of Communications during his working visit to the training venue.

Located on the third floor of the Scout's Building in Mata Mata, the training centre was abuzz with staff from the Land Transport Department busy learning how to use the new electronic system as compared to the current manual one.

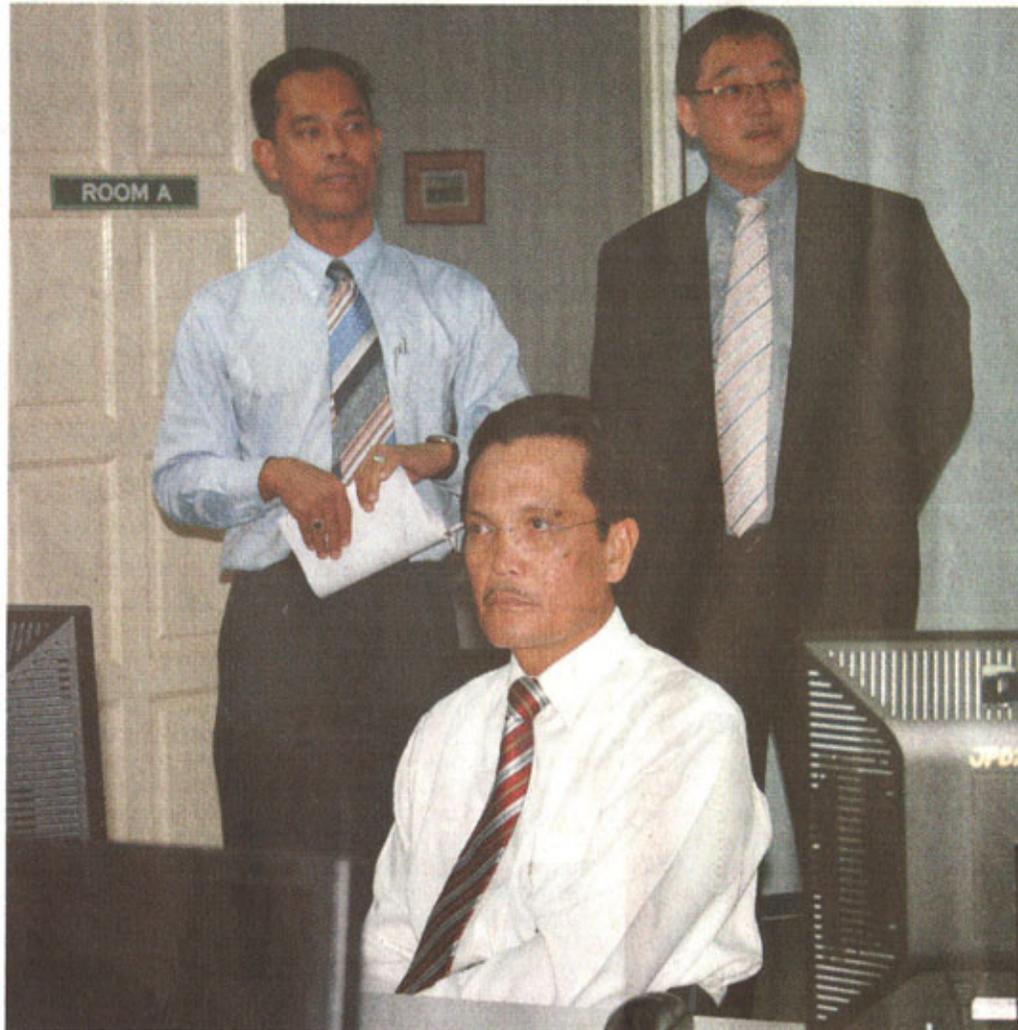
The minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Hj Abu Bakar Hj Apong, witnessed a session in progress before viewing a demonstration of the SPD in action, after which he and his delegation, including acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Hj Ibrahim Ali, and other senior officials raised questions and suggestions for further improvements.

The demonstration was conducted by Carolyn Goh from NovaCityNets (S) Pte Ltd, who demonstrated to those present how the system works by simulating the counter processes.

She showed various capabilities and functions of the system, such as viewing vehicle and driver details, and renewing licences for the public in the future.

Once installed, the system will replace the current bluecard, vehicle licence and driving licence with new ones using high-end technology such as the Machine Readable Card (MRC) and Machine Readable Document (MRD).

The automation in producing the driving licence and vehicle registration book is intended to



Improvements: Communications Minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Hj Abu Bakar Hj Apong, during his working visit to the SPD training centre in Gadong. *Picture: Hafiz AH*

lower the risk of human error as the information has previously always been hand-written.

Though the final designs for the documents are still on trial, security features to prevent fraud and theft have already been carefully considered.

Hjh Fatimah Burut from the Land Transport Department commented that there have been reported cases of drivers

using one vehicle licence for a number of other cars which do not have valid licences.

"Car owners have also found their licences stolen out of their cars," she said.

Other violations include forging stamps and signatures on bluecards to evade paying off bank loans.

The system supervisor assured that with the new system

and improved documents, such unlawful incidents would be significantly reduced.

The SPD is an integrated electronic system aimed at consolidating transactions into a single platform. Costing around \$8 million, the tender for the project was awarded to OakChem Sdn Bhd in May 2006. SPD will enable system networking between the Land

Transport Department and other stakeholders from government agencies to the private sector, such as insurance companies, car dealers, driving schools and financial institutions.

Apart from easily accessing information, the project seeks to raise productivity and improve communication between relevant authorities.

The training sessions which started in the first week of September were conducted for officers and staff of the Land Transport Department by both NovaCityNets (S) Pte Ltd and OakChem Sdn Bhd. "Some of them are enthusiastic about the system but there are also those who aren't computer literate," 23-year old trainer Hjh Nur Liyana Hj Ramlee said. In such extreme cases, it has been essential for the sessions to hold no more than eight people and a number of trainers present to give as much support as possible. "There are times when we have to show them the processes step by step and on a one-to-one basis," she added.

Carolyn remarked that the electronic system is not much different from the current manual system so most found migrating to be acceptable. "It's just that most of the things that are normally written down are now stored in electronic format," she said. To make sessions more interesting, trainers also hold short quizzes but though officers and staff who attend the sessions will get certificates, there will not be an official examination. According to Carolyn, the objective of the sessions is not to test but simply to prepare them for when the system gets launched, and to ensure that operations will be as smooth as possible when it does.