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Cyclists in Malaysia Face Strict Rules on Road Use The use of Malaysian roads by cyclists is governed by a range of laws and regulations, which can be complex and sometimes unclear. The Road Transport Act 1987, together with the Road Traffic Rules 1959, sets out clear definitions for what constitutes a bicycle and a cyclist, as well as rules governing where they can ride. According to Rule 42(C) of the Road Traffic Rules, cyclists must ride single-file on roads, regardless of the type of road. Failure to comply with this rule can result in a fine of RM2,000 or a maximum jail term of six months. On highways, cycling is generally prohibited where there are lawfully placed signs indicating so. The use of emergency lanes by cyclists on highways and other main roads is also prohibited under Rule 53 of the Road Traffic Rules, carrying a similar penalty. Riding on footpaths is similarly disallowed, except in cases where an invalid carriage or perambulator is used. However, there are some grey areas in Malaysian law regarding cycling safety equipment. While helmets for motorcyclists are mandatory under the Motorcycle (Helmet) Rules 1973, there is no equivalent rule for cyclists. Many cycling groups have taken it upon themselves to self-police helmet usage, with "no helmet, no ride" being a common rule. A final note on safety rules highlights that use of bells and lights is mandatory, as well as having brakes on both wheels of a bicycle. Failure to adhere to these rules can result in fines or imprisonment. The authorities have the power to detain any micromobility vehicle they deem necessary, regardless of whether an offence has been committed in their presence. This means that if you're on your bike, such as a Colnago worth RM50,000, and there's an accident or a breach of rules, the police can stop you even if they didn't actually witness it. =====