KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS) Bill 2012 which will assist in the systematic development and administration of road safety was passed in Dewan Negara yesterday.

The Bill which was aimed at setting up a special body to carry out road safety research and development, was passed after being debated by 10 senators.

Deputy Transport Minister Datuk Abdul Rahim Bakri in winding up debate on the bill said its tabling had created history as MIROS which was established in 2007 could now play a role similar to the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Authority (MARDI) and the Forestry Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM).

He said among others, MIROS was also responsible for research related to policy and method of implementation of several regulations, especially international regulations, which would to be implemented in the country.

"The role is different from the Road Safety Department whose main objective specializes on the implementation of road safety promotion programmes," he said.

On the qualification of trainee driving instructors in driving schools, Abdul Rahim said every Malaysian was eligible, provided they undergo and pass the Driving Instructor Institute Certificate, organised by the Malaysia Road Transport Academy.

He said the course was compulsory to ensure driving instructors acquired adequate knowledge and techniques before being made driving instructors at driving schools.

On the use of cars of various sizes and make, as training vehicles and for driving test, he said the ministry found the usage did not affect driving competency on the road. - Bernama