

28/01/1999

Decision to lower toll rate generally welcomed

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Cabinet decision to decrease the toll rate for the Damansara-Puchong highway from RM1.50 to RM1 today has generally been welcomed.

MCA consumer bureau chief Dr Chua Soi Lek said it was only fair that the Government decreased the rate for people's sake.

"Even though the decrease is not to the point expected, the move demonstrates that the Government listens to the public."

Bandar Sri Damansara Residents Association vice-president R.K. Ravindran was happy to note that the Government was being sensitive and considerate to the people.

However, he felt that RM1 for each of the four tolls was still high as residents had anticipated that it would be 50 sen.

Malaysian Trades Union Congress secretary-general G. Rajasekaran said the Government's decision today was still not enough.

"To pay RM1 at four different points is still too high for highway users, especially when there are no alternative routes.

DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang said he found the Government's decision unsatisfactory as the burden had merely been shifted onto taxpayers.

"While the 50 sen reduction for private vehicles using each toll plaza will ease the burden of motorists using the expressway, the Government has passed on the burden to the majority of Malaysians who do not use the expressway.

The People's Progressive Party Federal Territory branch today welcomed the Cabinet decision.

In a statement, its executive council member Abdul Malik Abdullah, who is also Segambut division chairman, expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for considering the appeal to reduce the toll rate.

"This democratic move will definitely boost the confidence in the Barisan Nasional Government."

The movement which initiated a signature campaign on Jan 23 and 24 in Bandar Sri Damansara, had collected more than 2,000 signatures which were handed to Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

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