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Samy-Toll

FIXING EFFECTIVE DATE FOR NEW TOLL FOR MOTORISTS AT LDP

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- The Works Ministry will fix the effective date for the new toll for motorists at the Damansara-Puchong expressway (LDP).

Its minister, Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said this would be done after the new rate had been gazetted.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced yesterday that the toll for motorists at the LDP would be reduced from RM1.50 to RM1 after the Chinese New Year. The move would cost the government RM85 million a year to pay the concession company, Lingkar Trans Kota Sdn Bhd to make up for the company's losses.

Dr Mahathir also announced that the toll rates for the North-South Expressway (NSE) would be raised by 0.75 sen per kilometre effective from the same date. This means that users will be paying 11.25 sen per kilometre.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the MIC Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting here today, Samy Vellu said the prime minister had announced that the government had decided to defer construction of new expressways by the private sector as Malaysians were not yet ready to pay toll to use quality roads.

He was asked on calls by several non-governmental organisations that the government make public future agreements with highway concession companies.

"So now, the NGOs should be very happy. There will be no more privatisation and as such, they will have no subject to quarrel anymore.

"But the question of giving every document to every NGO will mean that this country will never move forward for the next 100 years," Samy Vellu said.

The minister chided the NGOs for making such calls, saying that the proposal should be mooted at the United Nations "so every country will put forward everything including big countries which produce nuclear bombs." He said any suggestions should be reasonable and acceptable.

On the water supply privatisation plan in Sabah, Samy Vellu said a consortium of eight or nine companies was picked to carry out the project.

He said only two firms were peninsula-based while the rest were Sabah-owned. The minister could not give details of the privatisation.

"The water supply in Sabah can be overcome once it is privatised," Samy Vellu added.

--BERNAMA

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