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Samy-Toll

NEW TOLL RATES TO BE IMPLEMENTED ON MARCH 1

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- The new toll rates at five highways in the country, including the North-South Expressway and the Lebuhraya Damansara-Puchong (LDP), will be implemented on March 1.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the announcement of the new rates, some of which had already been quantified, would be made after the Chinese New Year.

"We will go ahead with the new toll rates on March 1," he told reporters after visiting alternative routes to the LDP provided by concession holder Lingkaran Trans Kota Sdn Bhd (Littrak), here today.

The other three major highways involved in the toll hike, which is expected to be nominal, are the Shah Alam Expressway (Kesas), the Kulim-Butterworth Expressway and the Projek Expressway Lingkaran Tengah (Elite).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently announced a reduction in toll rates for private vehicles using the LDP to RM1 from RM1.50, while those plying the North-South Expressway will have to fork out 11.24 sen per kilometre, an increase of 0.74 sen.

With the exception of the LDP, Samy Vellu said all the rest would see "a small fraction" of increase in toll rates.

"It is not a full increase otherwise it will be very much higher," he said.

Citing the case of the North-South Expressway, he said a full increase would mean motorists would have to pay 11.97 sen per kilometre instead of the new rate of 11.24 sen.

"The government is paying the balance. If people are still not happy, we can't help it. They (the rate increases) are nominal," he said.

He said a solution to the problem of providing alternative route to Sri Damansara residents to bypass the LDP's Sungai Penchala toll plaza would be looked into.

Samy Vellu criticised some residents for their reluctance to allow the alternative route to pass near their housing estate.

"We are going to do the design and when it is ready, we'll go ahead with building up the alternative road. It is our duty to provide such a road to connect that housing scheme," he said.

It is expected to cost about RM2 million.

He also visited the alternative road provided for residents living near the Puchong Barat toll plaza.

-- BERNAMA

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