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Sprint-Toll

THREE MPS WANT PM TO SCRAP TOLL COLLECTION AT DAMANSARA LINK

PUTRAJAYA, July 2 (Bernama) -- Three Members of Parliament today handed over a petition signed by 23,000 people asking the prime minister to scrap the proposed toll collection at the Damansara Link of the Western Kuala Lumpur Traffic Dispersal Scheme.

Donald Lim of Petaling Jaya Selatan, Vincent Lim of Petaling Jaya Utara, both of MCA, and Segambut's Dr Tan Kee Kwong of Gerakan, handed over the petition to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's deputy principal private secretary, Datuk Badariah Arshad.

Donald Lim said the signatures were collected by an action committee formed by 12 associations representing over 40,000 affected families in Petaling Jaya, Bukit Lanjan, Taman Tun Dr Ismail and other surrounding areas.

"The proposed toll collection at this place (in front of Eastin Hotel) is not justified. The fact that 23,000 people signed it shows that the people are not very happy," he told reporters after handing over the petition at the Prime Minister's Office, here.

The RM1.3 billion tolled highway, when completed next year, will serve some 400,000 residents in the western suburbs of Kuala Lumpur. The Damansara link is one of the three toll plazas planned by Sistem Penyuraian Trafik KL Barat Sdn Bhd (Sprint), the highway concessionaire.

The Sprint network is a six-lane dual carriageway that includes a 700m-long tunnel, 17km of viaducts/bridges and 13 multilevel interchanges. The components are the Duta-Kerinci Link, the Penchala Link and the Damansara-Semantan Link.

Donald Lim said the MPs and the people objected to the toll collection at the Damansara Link as Sprint was only upgrading the existing road and not bulding a new one.

"They took over the three lanes and gave a (new) toll-free two-lane which will definitely contribute to massive traffic jam. This will defeat the whole purpose of providing a smooth ride," he said.

He said the government should ask Sprint to build an elevated road to connect the highway to the Damansara-Puchong Highway and the North Klang Valley Expressway and charge toll there instead of doing it at the existing road.

"A big part of the cost is on the other portion of the highway but Sprint wants to impose toll in Damansara as about 160,000 vehicles are using this stretch daily. This is not fair to the residents there," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AR JK