

**Toll concessions may be extended - minister**  
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The Works Ministry has proposed to the National Key Result Areas (NKRA) laboratory to formulate clear alternatives to tackle the issue of toll hikes for expressways in urban areas.

Its minister, Shaziman Abu Mansor, said this included the possibility of extending the concession period for the relevant concessionaires.

toll booths smarttag and touch n go booths "We have given our suggestions to the lab for consideration. We feel that there should be clear alternatives even though the concessionaires have inked agreements with the government," he told reporters after opening the Plus International Expressway Conference and Exhibition (Piece) 2010 here today.

Shaziman said the move was vital towards reaching a positive balance between government expenditure, interest of stakeholders and welfare of road users, especially taxpayers in states like Sabah and Sarawak where expressways were not available.

"We have to reach a balance in this matter. If we can't pay compensation to these concessionaires, we can at least extend their concession period," he said.

#### New highways

Meanwhile, Shaziman said six new expressways under construction nationwide were expected to be completed by the middle of 2012, costing almost RM10 billion in total.

They are the Kemuning-Shah Alam Expressway (LKSA), South Klang Valley Expressway (SKVE), Senai-Desaru Expressway (SDE), Kuala Lumpur-Kuala Selangor Expressway (KLKS), East Coast Expressway Phase 2 (LPT2) and the Eastern Dispersal Link (EDL).

Piece 2010 is being held for the first time with the aim of providing a platform to the industry experts to exchange their views and expertise for the development of expressway industry.

Almost 300 participants from 20 countries are taking part in the conference which began today and will end on Wednesday.

- Bernama

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