

Govt aims to make final toll rates for Penang bridges reasonable
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GEORGE TOWN – The federal government is looking for a suitable mechanism to determine the toll rates for the first and second Penang Bridge to ensure they are acceptable to the public.

Gerakan president Dr Koh Tsu Koon said he had met with Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak and Works Minister Shaziman Mansor to discuss the matter.

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department said although Gerakan did not have the mandate and no assembly seat in Penang, it would continue to strive to make itself relevant to the people.

"I have left it to the prime minister and works minister to find a solution to the issue, and the government is now looking into it," he told reporters after opening the Penang Gerakan annual general meeting here on Sunday.

The media had before this reported on the toll rates for both bridges after the second bridge is completed and fully operational in 2013.

For Class 1 or motorcycles, the rate is RM1.90 and Class 2 (cars, taxis and two-axle vans) RM9.40, Class 3 (two-axle vehicles) RM16.20, Class 4 (two-axle with six wheels) RM33.60, Class 5 (three-axle) RM60.60, Class 6 (four-axle) RM80.80 and Class 7 (five-axle and more) RM100.90.

The current rates for the Penang Bridge users are RM1.40 for Class 1, RM7 for 2, RM12 (Class 3), RM25 (Class 4), RM45 (Class 5), RM60 (Class 6) and RM75 (Class 7).

Meanwhile, Koh who is also former Penang chief minister, said the federal government had identified several projects to be implemented in Penang from the Economic Transformation Plan to increase investment in the state which has continued to decline.

He said these were concrete projects which would be announced by the companies involved. — Bernama

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