

Ministers don't seem to know

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PUTRAJAYA: Whose baby is this?

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy pointed the finger at the Immigration Department.

Home Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Radzi Sheikh Ahmad, whose portfolio includes Immigration, pointed the finger back at Chan.

They were responding to a question on the levy on foreign vehicles entering Malaysia and how the system would be implemented.

"We are waiting for them as they are implementing it," they said at separate functions yesterday.

Chan said the amendments to the law to impose the levy had been made and it was now up to the implementing agency, the Immigration Depart-

ment, to execute it.

Asked if it was true that the gantries had already been put up and was ready for use, Chan said the Ministry had no clue about this and said the question should be forwarded to the Immigration.

"Although the ministry is involved in this project, Immigration is going to implement it," he said adding that the Cabinet had not decided on the method of payment.

Radzi said that his officers would only be tasked with collecting the levy once it came into effect.

"I thought it is all to be done by the Transport Ministry," he said.

"Immigration officers at checkpoints will only be checking the necessary documents and collect the money.

"The money is not even for Immigration and since we are collecting it on behalf of the Transport Ministry, it is in

charge of the implementation," he said when asked to clarify the confusion surrounding the use of gantries and smartcard readers at entry points including the Johor Baru Causeway.

The electronic payment equipment has been installed at both the Causeway and Second Link to collect the RM20 levy on Singaporean vehicles entering Malaysia beginning next month, according to Radzi's deputy Datuk Tan Chai Ho. It was also reported that trial runs for the equipment had already been conducted.

Asked if the payment system was similar to the one employed by Singapore, Radzi said he could not say.

"I will find out what is happening... and whether it is us or the Transport Ministry that is supposed to be giving the greenlight, although I think it is them.

"But for now, we have not

started collecting money and there is no decision if the collection will be done using the gantry system or manually," Radzi said.

Singapore imposes a S\$20

(RM45) fee on Malaysian cars entering the republic on weekdays. It allows free entry for 10 days in a year.

The fee for motorcycles is S\$4.