

Toll rates to remain unchanged, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Toll rates on highways operated by four highway concessionaires in the Klang Valley will not be raised until the end of their concession period with the restructuring of the four firms, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said the restructuring was implemented in line with the government's objective to alleviate the burden of Keluarga Malaysia, and does not involve financial implications to the government.

"This is (among) the government's continuous efforts to ensure that Malaysian families are not burdened, especially with an increase in toll rates as stipulated in the concession agreements.

"The savings from this move can be utilised for the country's infrastructure development programme and other facilities that need to be given priority for the well-being of Malaysian families," he said in a statement yesterday.

Ismail Sabri said the decision was made after a detailed study covering all aspects, namely the burden on highway users, the government's obligations in the concession agreements, as well as the government's financial burden.

He added that the government had agreed to the proposed restructuring of the companies, namely Kesas Sdn Bhd which manages Shah Alam Expressway, Syarikat Mengurus Air Banjir dan Terowong Sdn Bhd which manages the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel, Sistem Penyuraian Trafik KL Barat Sdn Bhd which manages the Kuala Lumpur Traffic Dispersal Scheme Expressway and Lingkaran Trans Kota Sdn Bhd which manages the Damasara-Puchong Expressway.

Ismail Sabri said the restructuring of the four companies was expected to reduce compensation costs from Jan 1 until the end of the concession period, and enable the government to save at least RM4.3 billion in toll subsidies, Bernama reported.

He said details of the approved for the firms' restructuring would be given by Works Senior Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.