

## **Guan Eng says dive will not disprove submarine allegations**

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**By Clara Chooi**

GEORGE TOWN, Dec 8 — Despite accepting Datuk Seri Zahid Hamidi's challenge to dive in the KD Tun Razak Scorpene submarine tomorrow, Lim Guan Eng said this would not hide Putrajaya's failure to address concerns over its initial defects and costly purchase.

The Penang chief minister also pointed out that he had accepted Zahid's challenge in March last year and questioned why it had taken the defence minister 21 months to schedule the ride.

"Does it mean it took that long to correct whatever technical defect that prevented the submarine from diving in the first place?" Lim (picture) asked in a statement here.

The delay, he said, only adds suspicion to the high cost of purchasing the submarine and the award of the RM534 million service contract or alleged commission to Perimekar Sdn Bhd, "a company that had no previous track record or experience in servicing and maintaining submarines".

"I will go to LIMA in Langkawai and fulfil the challenge made by Zahid 21 months ago.

"But the public is still waiting for answers to the questions about the high cost of purchase and service contracts which are also subject to suits in a foreign country," he said.

Zahid told reporters yesterday that Lim will board the Royal Malaysian Navy's second of two Scorpene submarines at 3pm tomorrow during the 11th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2011 (Lima) at Awana Porto Malai.

The defence minister had first issued the challenge to Lim in Parliament on March 17 last year after the latter criticised the government for purchasing a submarine that failed to dive upon delivery.

Lim had also insisted that the government return the vessel to the manufacturer but Zahid had refused.

"After all if one buys a new car, and there is a defect, you take it back to the showroom and ask for a new one," Lim pointed out today.

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