

**Guan Eng wants toll debate with Nor Mohamed**  
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**By Clara Chooi**

GEORGE TOWN, Jan 16 — Lim Guan Eng today challenged Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop to a public debate on whether terminating toll collections by profitable concessionaires would force the government into bankruptcy.

Lim earlier rebuked Nor for reportedly predicting government insolvency in such a scenario to several newspapers yesterday, adding that the federal minister's claim was a "lie".

"I challenge him to a public debate... on whether we should abolish toll for operators that have made huge profits and whether by doing that, Malaysia would go bankrupt," the Penang chief minister told a press conference here.

"We will not go bankrupt... maybe some of these crony companies would go bankrupt but do you want 28 million Malaysians to suffer or one crony company to suffer?" he added.

Lim then pointed to a reply in Parliament last year on profits earned by toll operators as at 2010 and said that, based on the figures, at least six highways should stop charging for toll.

The highways include: Lebuhraya Metramac (RM45 million for construction cost, RM440 million earned from toll collection, RM395 million in profits, 877 per cent in returns); North-South Expressway (cost - RM6 billion, toll - RM24.3 billion, profit - RM18.3 billion, 308 per cent returns); Karak Highway (cost - RM452 million, toll - RM1.362 billion, profit - RM912 million, 202 per cent returns).

The remaining three highways are the Damansara-Puchong Highway (149 per cent returns), Cheras-Kajang highway (141 per cent) and Penang Bridge (98 per cent).

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