

No toll charges for motorists who don't use EDL

TheStarOnline

March 10, 2012

JOHOR BARU: Motorists who do not use the Eastern Dispersal Link (EDL) will not be required to pay toll charges, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said the Government was finalising some technical issues and would make an announcement in two weeks, adding that the Government was aware of public concern.

"Those who do not use the EDL should not be required to pay toll," he said in his speech at a 1Malaysia dinner last night.

"We will resolve this issue. Do not worry, we hear the people's grievances."

It was previously reported in *The Star* that the 8.1km EDL, which is almost completed, would force motorists travelling to Singapore via the Johor Causeway to pay about five times more than the present RM2.90 paid for both ways to PLUS Bhd.

Motorists had to pay the proposed RM6.20 toll charge if they enter the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) Complex using routes other than the EDL since the toll booths would be located within the CIQ.

A trip to and from Singapore would mean RM15.30 for the journey.

Meanwhile, Najib urged the people not to be fooled by the Opposition's tactic of false promises.

"We need a strong government during this time of global crisis to steer the country out of troubled waters," he said.

Earlier in PUTRAJAYA, Najib said the Government would have to fork out RM6bil to pay for the salary increase of civil servants under the improved Malaysian Remuneration System (SSM).

The Prime Minister said the additional allocation included increases in the Cost of Living Allowance (Cola) for civil servants.

"I have already stated in the previous Budget that civil servants will get a salary increase of 7% to 13%," he said.

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