



KEMENTERIAN KERJA RAYA
MALAYSIA

KENYATAAN MEDIA

YAB Lim Guan Eng claiming credit where none is due to him

1. I refer to YAB Lim Guan Eng's statement yesterday where he had attempted to claim credit for our government's decision to stop toll increases for this year and next year.
2. YAB Lim suggested that our decision to stop toll increases on 4 highways that were entitled to do so was due to public pressure as the compensation to the toll companies was not indicated in the budget.
3. If YAB Lim had not left early and if the opposition had not created a ruckus and walked-out midway to hold-up placards during the YAB Prime Minister's budget 2017 speech, they would have noticed point 115 which stated that RM10 billion was allocated to help ease the cost of living for Malaysians where subsidy for toll charges was clearly stated.
4. YAB Lim and the opposition are advised to stay and understand the full budget speech in future in order not to make similar mistakes such as the one that YAB Lim just made that would serve to embarrass themselves.
5. At first YAB Lim suggest the 14.55 million EPF members throughout Malaysia are cronies. Now he wants them to sacrifice their savings and future dividends so that west coast Malaysian road-users no longer need to pay tolls for the North-South Highway.
6. I am not sure why YAB Lim would think that that he is speaking on behalf of all 14.55 million EPF holders and that these EPF holders would be willing to give up tens of billions of Ringgit of their current retirement savings and further tens of billions in future dividend in order to benefit only those who are using the North-South Highway. I would think that YAB Lim is being selfish when he suggest that EPF holders in Sabah, Sarawak and the east coast of peninsular Malaysia who do not use the North-South Highway should sacrifice themselves.
7. YAB Lim is free to start a petition from all EPF holders to back up his claim that all EPF members would be willing to sacrifice their savings in order to make the North-South Highway toll-free. I suggest that YAB Lim starts doing his petition in Sabah and Sarawak first.

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8. As for the "sordid" history of the North-South Highway suggested by YAB Lim, I am well aware of the history. This and other highway toll concessions of the past were structured during the reign of a previous Prime Minister who is now with your opposition. If YAB Lim wants to know more, I suggest that he checks with this past Prime Minister.

9. Our current government is determined to correct the legacy problems of the past. The take-over of PLUS Highways Berhad in 2011 is one example where toll prices on the North South Highway has not increased since 2005 and the benefits of all toll collected now goes to all Malaysians and EPF holders instead of to private interests as in the past.

10. Our government continues to do our best to correct other legacy issues which had also included restructuring the legacy Independent Power Producer (IPP) agreements in the year 2012 to be fairer to all.

11. I continue to hope that YAB Lim and the opposition recognizes our efforts to correct these legacy problems for the benefit of all Malaysians and refrain from politicizing issues based on incomplete information or lack of understanding.

DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF
Minister
Ministry of Works Malaysia
5th November 2016

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