

Mont Kiara ramp brings the smiles

By Koi Kye Lee

sureshram@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Motorists can now rest easy with the opening of the 530m Mont Kiara ramp whose construction was halted in 2002 following a land dispute thanks to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Najib had approved a RM20 million soft loan for highway concessionaire Sistem Penyuraian Trafik KL Barat Sdn Bhd (Sprint) to solve the dispute, thus allowing construction project to proceed and completion of the ramp at Sprint Expressway.

Works Minister Datuk Shaziman Abu Mansor, when opening the stretch yesterday, said: "The new ramp will be able to resolve heavy

traffic around Mont Kiara and Sri Hartamas. Before the ramp was completed, motorists had to use a temporary narrow by-pass, causing traffic during peak hours.

"With the ramp, the flow of traffic will be smoother as motorists can make use of it to go to Kampung Penchala, Taman Tun Dr Ismail and surrounding areas."

A 150m slip road now under construction on the left side of the Kerinchi Link is expected to be ready by the end of October.

The slip road is for motorists heading towards the federal highway, Petaling Jaya, Bangsar, Ampang and Hulu Kelang. The dispute arose when a portion where the ramp stands was said to be owned by "several parties".

On the proposed takeover of 25 toll highways by Asas Serba Sdn Bhd, Shaziman said he has yet to received anything from the company.

"I have nothing to say about it but if they have a good plan, they can submit it to the Economic Planning Unit.

"There is nothing wrong with having a look at such proposal."

Early last month, Asas Serba said it had asked the government to reconsider its plan to buy the highways for RM50 billion as its ambitious bid did not receive any response.

The company, owned by four individuals, made the proposal a year ago, pitched as a way to remove the headache the government faces when toll rates are due to rise.



Motorists using the Mont Kiara ramp yesterday. — Bernama picture