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1<sup>st</sup> June 2015

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**4PAM SAYS YES TO PRIVATE HIGHWAYS!**

4PAM is deeply concerned with the current road conditions and traffic issues that are affecting the efficiency of public transportation systems in the country in general, and specifically the Selangor State. The Selangor State Government decision to cancel highway projects, does not augur well for the development of Public Transport, State Economy and wellbeing of its people.

The increase in private vehicles in Klang Valley does not augur well for the condition of public transport in the State. We do not object to the rakyat owning private vehicles, as it is a matter of private choice, but this should not cause a decline in the quality of public transport, a price the Public Transport User, cannot afford to pay. This increase in private vehicle ownership is causing road congestion and causing buses and taxis to not arrive on time. This is critical as both taxis and buses are the back bone for a large number of users (employees) and act as the last mile connectivity to the LRT's and Kommuter and soon to be implemented MRT. A large portion of employees depend on Public Transport to get to work, and the delays are causing losses in productivity and affecting the quality of life for many of them.

With the increase in cost of living, the rakyat who is trying to switch from private vehicle to public transport users, is caught in a bind. As the rakyat tries to move away from private vehicles, they get caught in slow public transport and vice versa. This is a vicious cycle and is fast becoming a zero sum game and demands radical thoughts and strong political will to resolve.

Nobody would want a highway beside their homes, but the reality is as the city grows, this is the price of city living. These are some of the issues that residents in the past have had to put up with. Imagine, if the previous administration had not approved the existing highways in the State it would have been

literally impossible for any vehicle, be in private or public to move existing highways within the State. We urge the State government to think the welfare of the entire State versus the benefit of a few residents. The development and growth of the State supersedes the interest of any small group of people. This is not a time to make populist decision, but to act on the interest of the State.

However we hope that the State do put some serious consideration for highway operators, amongst them.

1. All concessioners, must build exits points that are connected to public transport modalities. This must be made clear to the concessionaires. This would allow Rakyat to use private vehicle (bicycle, motor cycle or car) be able to park and take the public transport to work. Partial connection is still way better than no connection.
2. Concessionaire must be asked to build, parks, recreation facilities, play grounds, cycle paths, etc. under elevated highways.

We believe these private highways would lead to traffic being effectively and efficiently dispersed, resulting in with less congestion on the roads, and indirectly allow public transport to arrive on time. It will also allow owners of private vehicles to use a semi-mode, where they could take the highway to the public transport exchange and take public transport to work. A dual modality is one way to reduce dependence on private vehicle ownership.

Against this backdrop we see no alternative but to support the development of these highways within Klang Valley, subject to the highway concessionaires providing accessibility to public transport facilities and indirectly improving public transport. We appeal to the Selangor Menteri Besar to take the interest of the largest group of people (the Public Transport Users) and the needs of the State over the benefits of a few housing estates.