

Minister: Penang govt obsessed with projects

■ **By Lee Keng Fatt and Phuah Ken Lin**
news@nst.com.my

GEORGE TOWN: Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop yesterday ticked off the state government for being too obsessed with the monorail system and Penang Outer Ring Road.

He said the state government should focus on improving the economy instead of

wanting to go-ahead with the mega projects.

"They are just too obsessed with them.

"The Federal Government has other responsibilities to take care of and that is why it decided to defer the two projects.

"Maybe the state government thinks otherwise.

Nor Mohamed was asked to comment on Penang Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng's re-

quest to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi last week to consider reinstating the RM2 billion monorail system and the RM1.5 billion PORR project.

He had earlier opened a forum on "The role, financial assistance and job opportunities of agencies for end-stage kidney failure patients" organised by the National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia (Cititel Hotel).

At a press conference at Komtar yesterday, Lim accused the Federal Government of intending to sabotage the state's economy.

"Of course, I am obsessed with the mega projects, as it is my responsibility as chief minister to ensure the development of such projects in the state.

"We have a right to development. It is not a privilege but a right."



Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop says the Federal Government has other matters to focus on to improve the economy