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Highway

"ROUTE 2" EXPRESSWAY TO LINK PORT KLANG WITH KUANTAN AND KUALA TERENGGANU

KUALA KUBU BAHARU, March 12 (Bernama) -- The government is studying privatisation plans for building the RM1.2 billion "Route 2" expressway to link Port Klang with Kuantan and Kuala Terengganu, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

He said the expressway would be built to enable industries outside the Klang Valley to have better access to Port Klang.

"With the completion of the expressway, Port Klang will be more directly accessible to all parts of the country," he told reporters after attending the opening of the RM34.8 million tiered junction at Bukit Beruntung, Serendah, near here by Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib.

Samy Vellu said the Route 2 highway was not a project under the Seventh Malaysia Plan but was a privatised venture.

He said the expressway would provide for the full utilisation of Port Klang in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's aspiration.

Route 2 would also link with other expressways at certain locations to allow for smooth traffic flow.

Samy Vellu said to overcome traffic congestion in Petaling Jaya the Cabinet had recently approved the 30-km Jalan Puchong-Klang project estimated to cost RM400 million.

"Some 265,000 vehicles use the federal highway via Petaling Jaya daily and this created many problems," he said.

Samy Vellu said the project would commence in the next two or three months and was expected to be completed within two years.

He said a study would also be conducted in collaboration with the relevant companies on the rationalisation of toll collection to reduce motorists' burden.

Samy Vellu however declined to comment further on this.

Earlier, Samy Vellu said the Bukit Beruntung tiered junction whose construction began on March 20, 1994 comprised a toll plaza and terminal, police post, motorcycle routes and public toilets would contribute to the development of the Ulu Selangor district.

He said more private firms should emulate the move by Europlus Berhad which constructed the tiered junction from the North-South Highway to the newly developed area. -- Bernama

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