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Samy-Highway

EAST COAST HIGHWAY MIGHT END IN KUANTAN, SAYS SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- The East Coast Highway might only be built up to Kuantan instead of Kuala Terengganu following developments in Terengganu with the PAS victory in the state, said Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today.

He said this included the move by PAS-led state government to stop toll collections at the Sultan Mahmud Bridge in keeping up with its promise in the recent general election.

"The central government has to think very carefully before continuing with the construction of the East Coast Highway because of the various decisions being made by PAS overnight," he told reporters here, after meeting MIC elected representatives from seven parliamentary and 15 state constituencies.

However, Samy Vellu said the final decision on the matter would be decided by the Cabinet.

"I will present my views to the Cabinet...that is if I'm still included in the next cabinet," he said.

Samy Vellu said he believed that following the state government's move to stop the toll collections, the people of Terengganu might not welcome the highway costing about RM2.8 billion.

"They prefer using roads without paying tolls...so we will build (the highway) up to Kuantan now. After that, we'll see what happens," he said.

The contract to build the 338-kilometre highway to link Kuala Lumpur and Terengganu through Pahang was given to Konsortium Malaysia-Thailand Development Capital (MTD) Berhad, the company responsible for building the Karak Highway which connects Kuala Lumpur to Bentong.

The ground-breaking ceremony for Phase One of the East Coast Highway was performed by Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob as Pahang Menteri Besar on Nov 23 this year.

Phase One consists of two sections: 50-kilometre stretch from Karak to Temerloh, and 57-kilometre stretch from Chendering to Bukit Besi in Terengganu.

On his meeting with the 22 MIC elected representatives, Samy Vellu said he told them to set up their offices, fully equipped with telephones and facsimile machines as well as their e-mail addresses to make it easier for their constituents to communicate to them.

They were also told to visit their constituencies regularly and tried to help resolve problems faced by the people as soon as possible.

"They must also attend functions such as weddings and funerals as the people would appreciate the presence of their elected representatives," he said.

Samy Vellu said he also advised them to set up a voters committee which would work with the Election Commission to register new voters and delete those who had died in their respective constituencies.

He also said the MIC had submitted its list to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is expected to form his new cabinet soon.

Samy Vellu thanked state leaders who had appointed MIC elected representatives in their respective State Executive Councils.

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