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Samy-Report

WORKS MINISTRY TO SUBMIT PROGRESS REPORT EVERY MONTH

KUALA LUMPUR, May 4 (Bernama) -- The Works Ministry will submit progress reports on the implementation of development projects to the Cabinet on a monthly basis instead of once a year as practised now, Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said today.

He said the report would be prepared by the ministry's Development Action Committee headed by him.

The committee, which held its first meeting here last week, decided to submit the report every month to inform the Cabinet of the ministry's performance, he said.

"This committee will evaluate the projects implemented by the ministry and the allocations involved," he told reporters after opening a Tamil book exhibition here.

The committee was formed following a directive by the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) on April 23 that each ministry set up a development action committee headed by its minister to look into implementing development projects.

Yesterday, First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin said the committee should meet twice a week and look into the progress and problems of development projects.

Samy Vellu said the committee would meet every week to identify the problems faced by the contractors.

He said the ministry will direct its engineers at all districts to immediately inform the ministry of any problems faced by the contractors through the computer.

The minister also said he had asked the ministry to prepare a list on the number of projects received from the various ministries for implementation.

"All actions and implementations pertaining to these projects will have to be recorded by the ministry every month," he said.

On the statement by Daim yesterday that 16 ministries and departments experienced between 50 per cent and 100 per cent shortfall in expenditure during the first quarter of this year, Samy Vellu said only nine per cent of the RM3.4 billion allocated to his ministry this year had been utilised so far.

He said by August, at least 50 per cent of the allocation would be spent on projects which had been approved.

"A lot of the projects are open for tenders now and the whole tender process will take between two and three months to be completed," he said.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said a new system would be implemented to ensure that allocations for approved projects were spent.

Samy Vellu also said his ministry had decided on the time frame for contractors to start work on projects awarded to them.

While he believed that the two-week period proposed earlier was too short for the contractors, Samy Vellu said the new time frame would be announced after he had consulted Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

--BERNAMA

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