Delay in project due to politics, says Hadi

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MB: No truth to Samy Vellu's statement

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KUALA TERENGGANU, Wed. — The State Government has claimed that the Federal Government's plan to "put on hold" Terengganu's portion of the East Coast Highway was politically motivated.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi said today there was no truth in Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu's statement yesterday that several problems concerning the building of the highway had yet to be solved.

"I had discussed the project with Samy Vellu last year and the matter was not raised then.

"Why are the issues only cropping up now?

"We have discussed all issues previously and agreed on certain matters, including the compensation to be paid to land owners whose land was acquired." He was asked to comment on Samy Vellu's statement yesterday that the fate of the East Coast highway involving Terengganu remains uncertain as there was no information forthcoming from the State Government.

Abdul Hadi was speaking to reporters after chairing the State executive council meeting at his office in Wisma Darul Iman.

"Perhaps, the Federal Government is waiting for the next general election before proceeding with the project. Otherwise, there is no reason to shelve the project until the project to Kuantan is completed in 18 months time."

He said the State Government was willing to discuss the project with anyone including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad so that work could begin soon.

The RM3 billion project involves the construction of a 338 km two-lane highway from Karak to Kuantan and Jabur before ending in Chendering.