

# RM1 billion for roadworks in Negri Sembilan

## Middle ring road to ease congestion

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KUALA KLAWANG, Tues. — The Federal Government has allocated about RM1 billion to build new roads and upgrade others in the State this year.

This includes the construction of a middle ring road, costing more than RM500 million, to ease congestion in Seremban town.

Speaking after performing the ground-breaking ceremony for the upgrading of Seremban-Kuala Klawang stretch here, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the Government hoped the projects would serve as the catalyst for economic growth.

The upgrading of Km21 to Km37 of the Seremban-Kuala Klawang road, costing more than RM40 million, is undertaken by contractors Maju-tera Sdn Bhd and Goodroad Engineering Sdn Bhd, and is expected to be ready by October next year.

Samy Vellu said paved road shoulders would be built for motorists along the affected stretch

of the road.

He added the environmental impact assessment report for the project had been approved.

Felling of trees would be kept to the minimum, while two bridges measuring 70.5 metres and 143 metres respectively, would be built for smoother flow of traffic.

Samy Vellu said the Finance Ministry, however, had yet to give its approval for a dual carriageway (four lanes) linking Seremban and Kuala Pilah. Contractors for this project, costing RM265 million, had been appointed, he added.

Also present was Jelebu MP Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, who is also Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

Samy Vellu said another big project was the upgrading of Seremban-Tampin-Gemas road, costing RM150 million.

The Teluk Kemang road was also being upgraded to attract more people to Port Dickson.

Samy Vellu added that the Kuala Klawang-Simpang Pertang stretch would also be upgraded at a cost of about RM17 million.

On the 16-kilometre middle ring road, he said the contractors had already completed design work for phase one of the project, which would be developed in six phases.

Samy Vellu also said he would propose to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Finance Minister, that ailing contractors be given the opportunity to continue with their projects.

"I hope to get the consent of Dr Mahathir that we don't change contractors anymore as this will only delay the projects."

Samy Vellu was commenting on a *Berita Harian* report which quoted Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Samsudin Hitam as saying that all ministries would be given the power to terminate the contracts for projects under their jurisdiction.

The committee on ailing contractors comprising senior officers from the ministry, the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department and the Finance Ministry, must reach a consensus before any decision to end a contract is made.