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2003 Budget will be received positively, says Samy Vellu

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu believes the people will react positively to the 2003 Budget that will be tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Dewan Rakyat on Friday.

Samy Vellu, who is MIC president, said feedback from all parties had been taken into consideration in preparing the Budget.

He said the Finance Ministry should look into his ministry's expenditure and projects as the allocation made last year, for instance, was insufficient.

"We will show the Finance Ministry that 100 per cent of the allocation given will be used up by year-end."

Samy Vellu added the ministry had been following a system it had implemented to ensure all budget allocations were used up efficiently.

"The allocation for road works and building of bridges, for instance, was RM1.2 billion of last year's budget," he said after launching Tamil Nesan's 78th anniversary celebrations at the MIC headquarters here today.

"Of this amount, RM960 million has already been spent over the last nine months."

Samy Vellu said Tamil Nesan, being the oldest Tamil-language newspaper in the country, had also contributed tremendously to the country's independence.

Three winners of a World Cup contest the paper ran for a month were announced.

First-prize winner was teacher M. Poongkodi, 32, who won a return ticket to London.

Housewife P. Kannagy, 34, came in second and teacher A. Lily, 36, was third.