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SAMY-CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR CAN EXPAND MORE, SAYS SAMY VELLU

KUALA LUMPUR, July 14 (Bernama) -- The construction sector is expected to grow at a higher rate than projected following the launch of the new strategic economic package in May, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said here today.

He said that for 2003, the sector was initially projected to expand 1.9 percent and to contribute RM7.5 billion to gross domestic product (GDP).

However, the minister did not give any figures in terms of the expansion.

Samy Vellu was speaking to reporters at the excellence service award for the ministry's staff and officers.

He said that in 2002, the construction sector grew 2.3 percent and contributed RM7.3 billion to GDP.

"This year, although the sector faces problem, with the new economic package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, a certain number of projects will be implemented," he said.

Samy Vellu also said that the ministry has applied to implement some projects out of the 600 projects which have been deferred by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) following the soft global economy.

"However, we have yet to get the approval," he said.

He said that as construction is one of the sectors which could contribute to overall economic growth, the government will continue to implement the country's development projects with focus on infrastructure and construction related projects like low and medium cost houses.

With the implementation of the new economic package, the Works Ministry will play an important role in realising the government's objective to generate economic growth. -- BERNAMA

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