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Traffic-Lights

MELAKA TRAFFIC LIGHT COUNTDOWN SYSTEM FOR WHOLE COUNTRY

SUNGAI SIPUT, Perak, July 12 (Bernama) -- The traffic light countdown system which was first implemented in Melaka City will be extended to all Federal road junctions in stages, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu has said.

He said the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, had directed the Works Ministry to implement the system on all Federal road junctions nationwide in view of its effectiveness.

A number of junctions in Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur also had the system, he said after being briefed on the widening of the Rimba Panjang road here yesterday by Perak Public Works Department (JKR) Director Datuk I. Dorairajoo.

"The JKR will switch to the countdown system when a change has to be made to an existing traffic light. The process will begin at the bigger towns and cities and then move on to the smaller towns," Samy Vellu said.

He said the system was convenient to road users who could be prepared and feel at ease when crossing a traffic light junction as the seconds flashing on the screen would alert the person whether to stop or proceed.

"This will enhance the safety level at traffic light junctions and will also ease congestion as more vehicles will pass through smoothly within the time provided," Samy Vellu said.

The system would be implemented in Sungai Siput with the widening of the Rimba Panjang road and the upgrading of the 12KM Kanthan-Salak Utara road to a four-lane highway, he said.

The project which would also involve the construction of a bridge and a tunnel near Rimba Panjang Public Housing Scheme would cost RM25 million in all, he said.

The project was part of the programme to upgrade all two-lane roads to four-lane highways in the Sungai Siput area, Samy Vellu added.

On delay in the completion of JKR projects, Samy Vellu said this could be avoided if all relevant agencies cooperated and the Treasury itself gave approval within three weeks.

The Treasury took about three to four months to give its approval and this greatly held back various programmes that could have been implemented, Samy Vellu said.

He said this when asked to comment on the Treasury circular warning that projects worth RM10 million and above would be cancelled automatically if work did not begin within six months from the date when the "Letter of Intent" had been released.

The JKR also had to face the frequent change in plans and designs of projects by certain government agencies, he said.

"I am not blaming anyone but only stressing that if all agencies carried out their work within the stipulated timeframe, then delays in project implementation can be reduced," he added.

-- BERNAMA

AR AR AAM