

26 JUN 2003

Samy Vellu-Gateway

NEW SOUTHERN GATEWAY PROJECT SMOOTH SAILING - SAMY VELLU

JOHOR BAHRU, June 26 (Bernama) -- The construction of the new Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Complex (CIQ) in the Consolidated Southern Gateway that began on Jan 1 is going on smoothly and is ahead of schedule.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said, according to the Public Works Department schedule, the project development rate that should only be at 7.6 per cent was now at 8 per cent.

"Saya expect the project will be ready a few months ahead of the expected completion date of Dec 31, 2004," he told reporters after visiting the RM2 billion project construction site in Bukit Cagar here today.

The complex would be Malaysia's main southern entry point to replace the CIQ Complex at the Johor Causeway that connects to Singapore and is always crowded.

He said the Southern Consolidated Gateway also included the construction of road bridge, rail bridge, multilevel junction and inner ring road.

"The multi-level junction to be built here will be more sophisticated than any other such structure built by the PWD," he said adding that he was impressed with its design and that it was suitable for such a huge complex.

Samy Vellu said the ongoing work at the site included earth works, piling, demolition of old buildings, moving large water pipes, and the construction of the bridge post.

"So far we have not faced problems as all of it was settled before the project began. And PWD regulations were all adhered to," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the ground-breaking ceremony for the project in February. The project was being developed by Gerbang Perdana Sdn Bhd.

-- BERNAMA

MNY MNY PC