

Samy: They can go to hell!
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Works Minister S Samy Vellu today said those who threatened to file a police report against him over the alleged discrepancies in the Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (Smart) project could 'go to hell'.

Yesterday, Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) Youth vice-chief S Manickavasagam had urged the minister to reveal all the documents pertaining to the project within seven days.

Failing which, the opposition politician said, he would turn to the police and Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA).

However, Samy Vellu remained unfazed and in return threatened that he too could lodge a police report.

"I can also make a police report saying that they are trying to pressure me into making public the toll rate, which has yet to be announced... that they are doing this by not following the government rules and regulations," he was quoted as saying by Bernama.

The veteran minister also took a swipe at PKR for speculating on the toll rate of the newly completed Smart project.

"I congratulate them (PKR), they can set up an information centre on tolls and they can make announcements on toll rates. Let them make the announcements.

"The government has yet to finalise the toll rate for the Smart tunnel," he said.

They don't understand

Samy Vellu was asked to comment on a malaysiakini report which quoted PKR Youth leaders as saying, among other things, that the toll for the tunnel would be RM2.

They also revealed certain figures, like the estimated income from the toll, and the subsequent increase of the toll rates in the future.

Two pages from the leaked concession agreement were distributed to reporters, showing that the toll charge will be increased every five years.

Commenting further, Samy Vellu said: "They (PKR) don't understand that to construct a 4km tunnel like this cost RM600 million while to construct a 4km road is only RM45 million."

The Smart project, costing more than RM2 billion, would connect Sungai Besi and the federal capital via a tunnel, which could also be used to flow flood water from the city centre to the outskirts. It is expected to be opened to traffic in two weeks.

"It is not mandatory for cars to use the tunnel... if you don't want to use it then you

can opt for the untolled road but that would take you 90 minutes to reach your destination," said the minister.

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