

Samy hits the roof on repairs

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KEPALA BATAS: To Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, work is work, even if it requires him to climb up a ladder and stick his head into the ceiling to inspect the wooden trusses and panels of a roof.

Samy Vellu did just that when he inspected the roofing of a block of seven classrooms in SJK(C) Mah Hua in Kampung Selamat here yesterday.

He stuck his head up the ceiling for about five minutes and used a flashlight to see if the contractor had used new material to replace the dilapidated wooden structure.

He had earlier instructed Public Works Department offi-

cers to rip open part of the ceiling following allegations by the school authorities that the RM100,000 bill for roof repairs was not justified.

"I wanted to see the work done on this roof. I have asked the PWD to review the costs of this repair work, including the profits made by the contractor."

He said he should get the PWD report within a week, with the breakdown of the material used, the costs involved and where they were sourced from.

"From my personal inspection, I find that some high quality *cengal* or *merbau* wood has been used," he told reporters.

Samy Vellu said the contractor was appointed last year to replace the roofing, trusses, wooden panels, gutters, as well as apply anti-termite treatment on the roof.

He said the school needed about RM350,000 for more repairs to be done.

"I will study the PWD report, then inform Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is Kepala Batas MP," he said.

Earlier, Samy Vellu inspected similar repairs costing RM150,000 at SJK(C) Chung Hwa Pusat in Jalan Kampung Gajah, where he was satisfied with the work done.