

# Council wars

NSF - 23/5/2006

## Samy Vellu stands firm on pedestrian bridge

*It's a federal project, angry Works Minister tells MPPJ*

“If we had to ask permission from the local authorities, a five-year plan would take 25 years to complete.”

>> P7



## Pedestrian bridge: MPPJ action irks Samy Vellu

NSF - 23/5/2006

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Trouble is brewing between Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and the Petaling Jaya Municipal Council (MPPJ).

The minister is upset that the council had the temerity to challenge a Cabinet decision, and prevent a pedestrian bridge from being built at Section 10 last Thursday.

The Cabinet had decided to put up such bridges at accident-prone stretches near 360 schools across the country.

“I will bring this latest development up to the Cabinet,” Samy Vellu said at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

He was commenting on a tiff involving MPPJ, Public

Works Department and outdoor advertising company Poly Dimension Sdn Bhd.

On Thursday, the council stopped Poly Dimension from erecting a pedestrian bridge.

Under a deal with the ministry, Poly Dimension is to build five pedestrian bridges along the Federal Highway and federal roads in Petaling

Jaya, in return for advertising rights on these structures.

Samy Vellu said this was the first time in the country's history that a local authority had prevented a federal agency from implementing a federal project.

“All this while, PWD does not need to obtain any approval from local authorities

to put up any building and structure as it is a federal agency tasked with implementing government projects,” he said.

Meanwhile, MPPJ president Datuk Ahmad Termizi Puteh said the issue would be discussed on Thursday at the council's monthly planning committee meeting.