

613 projects under 9MP completed

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Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu says all projects under the 9MP should be completed on time

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KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 613 projects, worth more than RM2.1 billion, under the Ninth Malaysia Plan have been completed.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the projects included the third phase of the Proton City new road, Jalan Kuah-Padang Matsirat to Langkawi airport road and the Jalan Duta interchange.

"Until the end of last month, there were 762 tenders awarded, amounting to RM24.9 billion.

"Of this, 533 projects worth RM16.9 billion are in progress," he said, adding that some of the projects were carried forward from the Eighth Malaysia Plan.

The minister stressed that all projects under the 9MP should be com-

pleted on time and warned that there should be no excuse for delays.

Samy Vellu said of the projects being carried out, 206 were road and bridge projects while the remaining were building projects.

He said there were still 915 projects, worth RM10.2 billion, which have yet to be awarded.

"We will award the tenders by the end of the year. I am giving this information to ensure transparency," he said, adding that the tenders would be awarded by the Public Works Department.

There are 4,272 projects, worth RM44.4 billion, under the 9MP.

Meanwhile, Samy Vellu said the Malaysian Highway Authority would provide information on traffic offenders to the police from its Traffic Management Centre which opened early this year.

He said with the completion of the Intelligent Transportation System by the end of the year, all highways would be monitored.

"Everything will be on real time. MHA will provide police with information on traffic offenders and it is up to the police to act on it."

Samy Vellu, who officiated at the TMC yesterday, said the new system would also help concession companies to nab road users who cheat on toll fees.

"I have received reports that PLUS alone had lost RM70 million because road users paid lower toll fees than they should have as they had found ways to cheat the system."

Samy Vellu said the RM70 million that PLUS lost would translate into a RM25 million loss in revenue for the government.

The state-of-the-art TMC, which

was built at a cost of RM24 million, will monitor all highways under the jurisdiction of MHA and provide information for road users through variable message board, short message service and multimedia messaging systems.

Samy Vellu said the project connected 12 traffic control centres over three phases.

Phase one covers the Damansara-Puchong Highway (LDP), Sprint, New Pantai Expressway (NPE), Kesas and Guthrie Corridor Expressway (GCE).

Phase two covers the Pantai Timur Highway, PLUS and Penang Bridge.

Phase three, which will be completed by the end of the year, will cover the Kajang Dispersal Link Expressway (SILK), North-South Expressway Central Link (ELITE), Prolintas and Shapadu highways.