

# Samy: Some ministries taken over jobs

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by Jimmy Yeow

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Several ministries have taken over the implementation of development projects such as buildings and clinics worth not more than RM5 million, which were previously handled by the Public Works Department (PWD), Works Minister Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu said.

He said the move to allow

the other ministries to handle their own development projects was made on the recommendation of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and endorsed by the cabinet several months ago.

"The EPU came out with a paper that with the number of projects in the hands of PWD, it would not be able to fulfil the requirements," he said after opening the Federation of

Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) Global Procurement Conference yesterday.

"Many of the ministries want to do the projects themselves. The original decision by the prime minister was that all projects should be handled by the PWD," he said.

"They felt that PWD had no capability to do all the projects. I am happy that they are doing it themselves. If (there is) any fault next time, don't come to us."

He said the ministries would be responsible for the development projects from management to consultancy without any involvement of the PWD.

Asked which ministries had asked to handle their own projects, he said: "Many ministries have asked (for) their projects back",

He cited the ministries of defence, health and education, as examples.

Samy Vellu said the Health Ministry wanted to handle the construction of smaller clinics costing between RM4 million and RM5 million.

"The Ministry of Defence

had taken back 14 projects such as for the construction of buildings, specialised buildings and depots. Since they have the capacity to do it, we give it to them. The only project handled by the PWD is the submarine base in Sabah, that is an old project," he said.

He said the Education Ministry took back some development of schools. "There are lots of schools, partially taken over by the Education Ministry. They said they have already called for tenders but somehow or rather (they) came back to our hands," Samy Vellu said.

"They took (them) back. We gave (them) back because they said they have all the tender documents ready and why should we do another tender document. But in return, they gave some new schools to us."

He dismissed the notion that the new ruling was a mess. "Rather than one person do all the dishes, another person will cook the soup while another cook the curry ... nothing wrong. Finally, it comes to the table, it goes to the people," he said.