

Pak Lah okays toll deal disclosures

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Information already known to bondholders

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has given the nod for agreements on tolled roads between the concessionaires and the Government to be made public.

The matter was raised at a Cabinet meeting on Feb 7.

"The Prime Minister asked me to submit working papers on the matter. Now, I have received the approval," Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu told reporters.

He added that he had consulted the Attorney General on the matter and was "now writing to the highway concessionaires" to comply with a clause that their consent is required before publicising the documents.

"I have the agreements in my office," he said at the MCA Chinese

»I am now writing to the concessionaires«

DATUK SERI S. SAMY VELLU

New Year open house on Sunday.

Asked when he expected the agreements to be made public, Samy Vellu said: "Wait for the Cabinet approval."

Early this month, the police took statements from four opposition politicians for allegedly having contravened the Official Secrets Act, which makes an offender liable to a maxi-

mum jail term of 12 months.

Information from such agreements was already available to investors and bondholders.

On another toll-related matter, Samy Vellu said collection at the Sungai Nyior plaza of the Butterworth Outer Ring Road had been deferred indefinitely following strong public protests.

He said toll collection at two other plazas along the 12.1km BORR, Prai and Bagan Ajam, begins today.

"There is a slight misunderstanding. The (Sungai Nyior) stretch was constructed about six years ago. It is part of the highway.

"The people had been allowed to use it. Now, they said it's an old road."

Samy Vellu said he would discuss the matter with residents, the concessionaires and the Penang government.