

Samy explains RM70m bill

The Star - 11/2/2007

Consultant fees and extra work push up MRR2 repair cost

SUNGAI SIPUT: Consultant fees and additional work have pushed up the cost of repairing the RM120mil Middle Ring Road Two by almost four times.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the initial repair cost was RM18mil but because of the additional cost, it had gone up to RM70mil.

"The initial figure did not take into consideration the RM8mil paid to a foreign consultant," he told reporters after presenting *ang pow* and hampers to Sungai Siput Old Folks Home residents yesterday.

He said the number of pillars needed to be repaired also doubled from 18 to 36.

Samy Vellu was commenting on a statement by Public Accounts Committee chairman Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad who questioned the high repair cost.

Ticking off the Opposition for challenging him to reveal the reason behind the higher repair cost, the minister said: "We have nothing to hide. You ask, I will answer."

The MRR2's 1.7km flyover in Kepong, Kuala Lumpur, was closed on Aug 8, 2004, as a precautionary

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measure after hairline cracks were detected on the columns.
It was reopened to light vehicles

on Nov 12 and to all vehicles on Dec 7 the same year. However, it was closed again in February last year for remedial works.

Commenting on calls to make public the agreements between the Government and highway concessionaires, Samy Vellu said both parties had to agree before they could be made public.

He added that the agreement could not be changed even if it was made public.

"You will not be satisfied even if you have viewed it," the minister said.