

Samy: I do not decide toll rates

The Star - 12/2/2007

Cabinet's job to set quantum

KUALA LUMPUR: The Works Minister merely announces toll rates that are decided by the Cabinet to the public and does not make any decision on the matter at all.

Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the Opposition, which had been criticising him for the increase in toll rates, was "immature".

"They think that I decide on the increase and go for my blood," he said yesterday.

Samy Vellu said when the toll charges for the Damansara-Puchong Expressway was fixed at RM1.80, he had opposed it by saying that it would burden the people.

"It was then suggested that the toll rates be brought down to RM1.60 with a compensation of RM150mil to be paid by the Government as well as a year's

extension of the concession period," he said.

Referring to DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng's statement that he would recommend to the Government to buy over the tolled highways if he was the Works Minister, Samy Vellu said the opposition politician clearly did not understand how the Government worked.

"The Government would have to cough up RM500bil to buy up the highways and this is a huge amount," he said.

To another question on the toll charges for the newly constructed Smart Tunnel in the city centre, Samy Vellu said the ministry would submit a paper to the Cabinet.

"We have not prepared the paper yet. We will make an announcement when the time comes," he said.