

# Samy Vellu wants changes in writing

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**JOHOR BARU:** From now, any changes in projects involving the Works Ministry and other ministries will be put down on paper.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said his ministry was tired of being labelled the bad boy by government agencies and other ministries when there were delays and cost overruns.

"We are always blamed. We cannot defend ourselves as the amendments are not documented," he said yesterday.

He has now given his officers a standing instruction to document all changes made to projects approved by the ministry and other ministries.

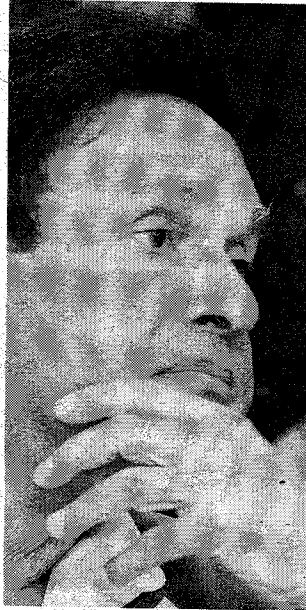
"There are bound to be changes to projects but people generally see them as delays and overspending on our part, and this has put us in a bad light," Samy Vellu said.

"This must stop. Everything will now be documented.

"Both parties will have to sign the amendments. With this, there will be no need to point fingers at each other when there are delays or overspending."

Recently, Samy Vellu and Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek exchanged words over the delay in the completion of the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital in Alor Star, which was supposed to be ready in December 2003.

The RM565 million hospital has been at the centre of a de-



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*Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu*  
Works Minister

bate between the two ministries after numerous delays.

Samy Vellu had accused the Health Ministry of causing the delay, claiming it made last-minute changes to the building plan.

Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad had said the changes were necessary to ensure the building was safe and to keep up with the latest developments in medical technology.

Dr Chua said the delay was due to frequent change of contractors.

On another note, Samy Vellu announced that the recently

completed Pekan Hospital, in Pahang, would be handed to the Health Ministry on Tuesday.

He was speaking after opening the Setia Tropika interchange at Kempas here yesterday. Also at the ceremony were state Public Works Committee chairman Baderi Dasuki, SP Setia group managing director Tan Sri Liew Kee Sin and director Tan Sri Abdul Rashid Abdul Manaf.

The RM18-million interchange, built by SP Setia Berhad, will link the company's flagship housing project, Setia Tropika, to the North-South Expressway.