

THE STAR

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## Fewer jobs for contractors in Q1

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THE number of construction projects awarded from January to March dropped from a year ago, with the total value falling sharply by 70.5% to RM6.14bil.

This was compared with RM20.8bil recorded in the previous corresponding period, said Master Builders Association of Malaysia vice-president Datuk Aziz Bahaman.

He said the results were released by the Construction Industry Development Board.

However, Aziz said there were reasons to be more optimistic about the construction industry, going forward.

"We expect the stimulus packages to kick in and impact the construction industry more positively in the third and fourth quarters," he said at the seminar yesterday.

The Government had awarded construction projects worth RM6.95bil under the first stimulus package in November 2008 and RM10bil under the second package in March this year.