

MAHATHIR - HIGHWAY
BM

81 (P)
BUKIT KAYU HITAM, APRIL 19 ((BERNAMA) - (DATUK SERI DR.
MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) TODAY WARNED CONTRACTORS APPOINTED TO CONSTRUCT
THE NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY FROM HERE TO JOHORE BAHRU TO COMPLETE THEIR
WORK ON SCHEDULE.

IF THEY FAILED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD FINE THEM BUT IF THEY
COMPLETED THEIR WORK WITHIN THE STIPULATED PERIOD, THE GOVERN-
MENT WOULD GIVE THEM A BONUS, HE ADDED WHEN LAUNCHING THE 573-
MILE HIGHWAY PROJECT HERE.

THE HIGHWAY PROJECT WHICH IS INCLUSIVE OF THE PENANG BRIDGE
AND KLANG VALLEY HIGHWAY PROJECTS IS ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$3,000
MILLION AND SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN SIX YEARS.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID CONSTRUCTION OF THE HIGHWAY WOULD
GENERATE INCOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS ALONG THE ROUTE. -
BERNAMA MORE 1325/BW

1972
NO40 (F)
MAHATHIR-HIGHWAY 2 BUKIT KAYU HITAM

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT WHEN COMPLETED, THE HIGHWAY WOULD RANK AMONG THE BEST IN THE REGION.

IT WOULD FACILITATE MARKETING OF PRODUCTS AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERIOR AREAS.

ANOTHER RESULT WOULD BE A DROP IN PRICES OF GOODS IN INTERIOR AREAS BECAUSE OF THEIR NEWLY-CREATED ACCESSIBILITY.

THE SAFETY-PROMOTING FEATURES OF THE NEW HIGHWAY, WHICH WOULD BE A FOUR-LANE CARRIAGEWAY COMPARED WITH THE PRESENT DUAL-CARRIAGEWAY TRUNK ROAD, WOULD ALSO HOPEFULLY IMPROVE LONG-DISTANCE ACCIDENT STATISTICS.

HE URGED THE MALAYSIAN HIGHWAY AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT SIMULTANEOUSLY AT ALL POINTS AND NOT IN STAGES.

HE SUGGESTED THE AUTHORITY STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF STATIONING AN OFFICER IN KEDAH TO COORDINATE THE WORK AND DEAL WITH ANY PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE.—BERNAMA MORE 106/MK

NO41 (F)
MAHATHIR-HIGHWAY 3 BUKIT KAYU HITAM

THE 15-MILE BUKIT KAYU HITAM-JITRA STAGE OF THE PROJECT COSTS \$33.13 MILLION AND IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 1983.

THE HIGHWAY, WHEN COMPLETED IN SIX YEARS, WILL LINK BUKIT KAYU HITAM WITH JOHORE BAHRU VIA JITRA, SUNGAI PETANI, BUTTERWORTH, CHANGKAT JERING, IPOH, KUALA LUMPUR, AIR HITAM AND TAMPOI.

MINISTER OF WORKS AND UTILITIES, DATUK S. SAMY VELLU, IN HIS SPEECH SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD IMPOSE TOLL COLLECTIONS FOR USERS OF THE NEW HIGHWAY AS WAS BEING DONE AT THE TANJONG MALIM-SLIM RIVER EXPRESSWAY.

HOWEVER, TOLL WOULD NOT BE IMPOSED FOR THE BUKIT KAYU HITAM-JITRA STRETCH FOR THE TIME BEING.

HE SAID THE NEW NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY CONSTITUTED ONE OF THE LINKS IN THE ASIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK CONNECTING TURKEY WITH SINGAPORE.

HE SAID THAT TRAVELLERS WHO DID NOT WANT TO USE THE NEW HIGHWAY COULD CONTINUE TO USE THE PRESENT NORTH-SOUTH TRUNK ROAD WITHOUT HAVING TO PAY ANY TOLL. — BERNAMA MORE 1620/SZ

NOTE (F)
MAHATHIR-HIGHWAY 4 BUKIT KAYU HITAM

REST STOPS LIKE CAFES AND PETROL STATIONS WOULD BE PROVIDED ALONG THE NEW HIGHWAY FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF USERS.

DATUK SAMY VELLU EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESENT NORTH-SOUTH TRUNK ROAD WAS INADQUATE TO COPE WITH THE RAPIDLY-INCREASING VOLUME OF TRAFFIC BETWEEN THE TWO POINTS.

TO MEET THIS CONTINGENCY, THE GOVERNMENT CAME UP WITH TWO PLANS. ONE WAS THE TRAFFIC DISPERSION SCHEME WHICH WOULD DIVERT TRAFFIC FROM URBAN CENTRE AREAS TO EASE CONGESTION THERE.

THE OTHER WAS THE HIGHWAY PROJECT WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY BY-PASS TOWN CENTRES BUT ALSO CUT DOWN TRAVELLING DISTANCE BETWEEN TOWNS.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY WERE KEDAH MENTRI BESAR DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR SHAHABUDDIN, PAHANG MENTRI BESAR HAJI ABDUL RAHIM ABU BAKAR, DEPUTY HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER ENCIK SANUSI JUNID AND MALAYSIAN HIGHWAY AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN TAN SRI G.K. RAMA IYER.

— BERNAMA 1625/SZ