

MAHATHIR-BRIDGE R'R'R'  
BM

PENANG, APRIL 12 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS WHICH WERE NOT IN LINE WITH IT IN IMPLEMENTING DEVELOPMENT AND RAISING THE PERFORMANCE IN SUCH EFFORTS.

HE SAID THAT THOUGH THERE WAS A SEPARATION OF POWERS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WOULD BE AFFECTED IF THERE WAS NO COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT AID TO THE STATE GOVERNMENTS WAS NOT ONLY A QUESTION OF FAIRNESS BUT IT ALSO INVOLVED THE QUESTION OF COOPERATION WHICH WAS VITAL TO ENSURE THAT THE FUNDS ALLOCATED WERE ACTUALLY BRINGING BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY, HE SAID.

HE DISMISSED THE IDEA THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD PROVIDE FUNDS EVEN THOUGH COOPERATION WAS NOT FORTHCOMING FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENTS.

BY DOING THIS, THEY WOULD BENEFIT ONLY THE STATE GOVERNMENTS AND NOT THE PEOPLE, HE SAID WHEN OFFICIATING AT THE COMMENCING OF PILING WORKS FOR THE PENANG BRIDGE PROJECT. -- BERNAMA MORE 1232/AI  
MAHATHIR-BRIDGE 2 PENANG

WHAT WAS IMPORTANT, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, WAS GOOD ADMINISTRATION. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A SEPARATION OF POWERS, IT DID NOT MEAN THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT NEED NOT COOPERATE WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN HELPING IT TO REALIZE THE LATTER'S ASPIRATIONS OF BRINGING SIMILAR PROGRESS TO ALL.

HE HOPED THAT THE PENANG BRIDGE WOULD HELP BRING CLOSER THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ISLAND AND SEBERANG PERAI, BOTH PHYSICALLY AND SOCIALLY.

THE BUILDING OF THE BRIDGE WOULD TURN A \$1,000 MILLION "DREAM" INTO A REALITY BY EARLY 1985.

THE PEOPLE FROM THE MAINLAND AND PENANG SHOULD ACCEPT DEVELOPMENT AS THE BRIDGE WOULD BRING BENEFITS TO ALL THE PEOPLE. -- BERNAMA MORE 1310/LK

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MAHATHIR-BRIDGE 3 PENANG

HE ALSO SPOKE OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE HIGHWAY FACILITIES AND EXPAND THE HIGHWAYS IN VIEW OF THE 27 PER CENT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN THE COUNTRY EACH YEAR.

HE SAID IT WAS HOPED THAT THE EXISTING ROADS WOULD HAVE AT LEAST TWO LANES ON EACH SIDE TO HELP SPEED UP THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC.

THE LATEST HIGHWAY BEING BUILT BY THE GOVERNMENT FROM CHANGKAT JERING IN THE NORTH TO JOHORE BAHRU IN THE SOUTH WOULD HAVE FOUR LANES ON EACH SIDE, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE BUILDING OF THE BRIDGE WOULD PROVIDE NOT ONLY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY BUT ALSO ENABLE THEM TO ACQUIRE THE EXPERIENCE AND TECHNICAL KNOW HOW FROM FOREIGN EXPERTS.

SUCH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WOULD INCREASE THE SKILLS AND CAPABILITY OF LOCAL EXPERTS, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1313/LK

MAHATHIR-BRIDGE 4 PENANG

THE HYUNDAI ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. OF SOUTH KOREA, THE MAIN CONTRACTORS FOR THE PROJECT, HAVE AGREED TO TRAIN MALAYSIANS IN THE PROJECT.

THIS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID, WAS THE BONUS THAT MALAYSIANS WOULD RECEIVE FOLLOWING THE BUILDING OF THE BRIDGE.

SO FAR, HE SAID, WORK ON THE BRIDGE WAS GOING ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE AND THE MALAYSIAN HIGHWAY AUTHORITY WOULD TRY TO COMPLETE IT ON TIME.

THE PROJECT IS DIVIDED INTO NINE PARTS, THE FIRST INVOLVING LAND RECLAMATION ON THE PENANG SIDE AND THE SECOND THE LAND RECLAMATION AT PERAI.

THE THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH PARTS, OF THE CONTRACT BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE HYUNDAI ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD., BEGAN ON JAN. 1 AND WERE SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED BY JAN. 24, 1985. -- BERNAMA MORE 1342/LK

#### MAHATHIR-BRIDGE 5 PENANG

THREE PARTS OF THE CONTRACT COVERED THE BUILDING OF THE PENANG INTERCHANGE ON 40.5 HECTARES OF LAND RECLAIMED UNDER THE FIRST PART OF THE CONTRACT, AND THE 8.4 KM BRIDGE JOINING PENANG AND THE MAINLAND.

THE SIXTH PART OF THE CONTRACT WAS LOCATED AT THE PERAI INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND THE SEVENTH AT THE 7TH KM BUTTERWORTH - IPOH ROAD ALONG ROUTE ONE OF THE PROPOSED FEDERAL HIGHWAY.

BOTH THE INTERCHANGES WERE PART OF THE PROPOSED NORTH-SOUTH TOLL HIGHWAY. TENDERS FOR THE TWO PARTS HAD BEEN CALLED ON JAN. 20 AND THEY WOULD CLOSE ON APRIL 21.

HE SAID DESIGN WORK WAS IN PROGRESS AND THE TENDERS WOULD BE CALLED IN AUGUST FOR THE EIGHTH PART OF THE CONTRACT, INVOLVING THE BUILDING OF THE TOLL PLAZA COMPLEX AND IN JANUARY NEXT YEAR FOR THE NINTH PART OF THE CONTRACT COVERING THE INSTALLATION OF LIGHTS AND RELATED WORKS.

CHIEF MINISTER DR LIM CHONG EU SAID A MAJOR WORK SUCH AS THE PENANG BRIDGE DEMONSTRATED THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS.

THE BRIDGE COULD BE CONSIDERED A PHYSICAL SYMBOL OF THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE STATE AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA MORE 1433/AI

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#### MAHATHIR-BRIDGE 6 PENANG

HE SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS NEGOTIATING WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO INITIATE A SPECIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME AT BATU MAUNG.

THIS INCLUDED THE INCREASING OF THE NUMBER OF HOUSES FROM THE PRESENT 260 UNITS TO 1,000 UNITS AT SUNGAI NIBONG TO ACCOMMODATE THE PEOPLE WHO WERE EXPECTED TO BE AFFECTED BY THE BUILDING OF THE BRIDGE.

DR LIM ALSO ASSURED ALL THOSE LIVING ON THE COASTAL AREAS OF PANTAI JEREJAK, ESPECIALLY THE BOAT BUILDERS, THAT THEY WOULD BE GIVEN PERMANENT ALTERNATE SITES.

ABOUT 3,000 PEOPLE WERE ON HAND TO GREET DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATIN SERI DR SITI HASMAH ON THEIR ARRIVAL FOR THE CEREMONY AT GLUGOR HERE.

ALSO PRESENT WERE MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI, STATE SECRETARY ENCIK ZAINQL MAHMOOD AND OTHER STATE DIGNITARIES. -- BERNAMA 1437/AI