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MAHATHIR-LXNK  
BM

MUAR, AUG 18 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMADSAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT IS CONDUCTING A SURVEY FOR A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR THE PROPOSED SECOND LINK WITH SINGAPORE.

WITHOUT DISCLOSING THE POSSIBLE SITE FOR THE PROJECT, THE PRIME MINISTER HOWEVER SAID THAT THE LINKAGAGE POINT SHOULD BE SITUATED SOME DISTANCE AWAY FROM JOHOR BAHRU TO AVOID TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

+WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO HAVE A SECOND LINK BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE JOHOR CAUSEWAY,+ HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE PAGOH DIVISIONAL UMNO DELEGATES MEETING HERE.

HE ADDED THAT EVEN IF THE JOHOR CAUSEWAY WERE BE EXPANDED (BEYOND THE PRESENT PLAN), THERE WOULD BE CONGESTION IN THE JOHOR BAHRU TOWN. THE JOHOR CAUSEWAY IS BEING EXPANDED BUT THE MEASURE COULD ONLY MEET THE NEEDS UP TO THE YEAR 2000.

LAST MONTH, DEPUTY WORKS MINISTER DATUK ALEX LEE SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO CONSTRUCT A SECOND LAND LINK WITH SINGAPORE COSTING \$1,500 MILLION AND EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN FIVE YEARS.

ACCORDING TO DATUK ALEX, THE PROJECT, WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO BE PRIVATISED, HAD BEEN PROPOSED TO BE BUILT AT A SITE IN GELANG PATAH NEAR THE JURONG INDUSTRIAL ZONE IN SINGAPORE. -- MORE  
1539MST 18 08 89

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UE182 A A E  
MAHATHIR-LINK 2 MUAR

COMMENTING ON A PRESS REPORT TODAY ON RUMOURS THAT HAMIM WOULD WITHDRAW FROM THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) TO JOIN THE ANGKATAN PERPADUAN UMMAH, THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS BN CHAIRMAN, SAID THAT THE PARTY ONLY HAD FIVE MEMBERS AND THEY WERE THE ONES WHO WERE LEAVING.

THE REPORT QUOTED A TOP PARTY OFFICIAL AS SAYING THAT THE DECISION WAS REACHED AT A MEETING ATTENDED BY SEVERAL PARTY LEADERS INCLUDING ITS PRESIDENT, DATUK SUDIN WAHAB, ITS DEPUTY PRESIDENT? DATUK NIK MAN NIK MOHAMED AND YOUTH LEADER MADLA YOB, IN KOTA BHARU LAST SATURDAY.

THE PARTY'S SECRETARY-GENERAL! WAN IBRAHIM WAN ABDULLAH, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE PREPARED A LETTER TO INFORM BN SECRETARY-GENRRAL ENCIK GHAFAR BABA ON THE DECISION.

MEANWHILE, MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI HAJI MUHYIDDIN YASSIN WON UNOPPOSED THE POST OF HEAD OF THE DIVISION WHILE MP FOR PAGOH, ENCIK AHMAD OMAR, WON UNOPPOSED THE POST OF DEPUTY HEAD. -- BERNAMA  
1540MST 18 08 89