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Mahathir-bridge

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today asked the DAP to make a stand on the proposal to build a second link between Malaysia and Singapore.

The Prime Minister told the Dewan Rakyat he was giving DAP Secretary-General Lim Kit Sian an opportunity to make a decision in this matter, especially whether the bridge should be built or not.

If not, the honourable member can announce that the DAP opposes any new bridge linking Singapore and Malaysia and take responsibility for overcoming traffic jams at the Johor causeway, he said when winding up the debate on the Sixth Malaysia Plan motion.

If the DAP felt that a new bridge should be built for the sake of the country's economy, it should decide on the site, he added.

The party should also be responsible for getting the agreement of the People's Action Party (PAP) government in Singapore and should bear the costs, including for resettling the affected residents, he said. -- more

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Mahathir-bridge 2 Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir made the offer to the DAP because, according to him, the party had been instigating Gelang Patih residents to oppose the construction of such a bridge which the government proposed to build there.

The project was vital to the nation's economy as the Johor causeway could no longer cope with the traffic volume, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said only by building another bridge far from Johor Baharu could the problem of road travel between Singapore and Malaysia be solved.

There was nothing unusual in awarding the feasibility study project to UEM because no other companies had submitted a better proposal, he added.

There is no reason for the government to blacklist UEM just because the honourable member- (from Tanjung) alleges that the company is owned by Umno, he said.

He said as Umno had 1.5 million members, it was not surprising if some of them were in UEM. -- Bernama

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