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Causeway

DISMANTLING CAUSEWAY WILL FACILITATE FERRY SERVICES

SINGAPORE, July 6 (Bernama) -- The dismantling of the Causeway linking Johor Baharu and Woodlands in Singapore will facilitate ferry services rather than commercial shipping, the shipping industry said today.

It said certain parts of the Johor Straits were not deep enough for the bigger ships.

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday raised the possibility of dismantling the Causeway and replacing it with a high bridge so as to let the waters flow again naturally.

This was the first time the possibility of dismantling the Causeway was raised and the Singapore government has yet to make any official announcement.

Singapore's Ministry of National Development will handle the issue if it comes up officially.

Official sources said that so far there had not been any official contact between both sides on the possibility of dismantling the Causeway.

The 1.2km Causeway, built in 1923 by the British, was opened in June 1924 and until today, is the only road and rail link between Singapore and Malaysia.

A second Link Crossing Bridge is currently being built by the Singapore and Malaysian governments linking Tuas in Singapore and Tanjung Kupang in Johor.

The second link is targeted to be completed by the end of 1997.

It was reported earlier this year that the Johor government was studying the possibility of a third link on the eastern part of the state.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia was reported to be conducting a feasibility study for either a tunnel or a high bridge to link Tanjung Langsat in eastern Johor to Singapore.

The Johor Straits to the east of the Causeway is currently a busy waterway with ships heading for the shipyards in Singapore and Johor while to the west of the Causeway, traffic is low and mainly comprises the smaller sized vessels.

Today, some 100,000 people cross the Causeway daily in either direction compared with about 17,000 daily when immigration control was imposed between the two countries in July 1967. -- BERNAMA

THG JK