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Mahathir-Causeway

MALAYSIA PROPOSES TWO BRIDGES FOR CAUSEWAY

SINGAPORE, Aug 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has proposed the building of two bridges to replace the existing Causeway which links Woodlands in Singapore and Johor Baharu in Malaysia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said one bridge would be for the railway service and the other for the road transport use.

"This is because the gradient for the rail service must be less steep than for the road service," he told reporters here today after being conferred an Honorary Fellowship of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore.

Dr Mahathir was also the guest speaker at the 13th Prof Gordon Arthur Ransome oration organised by the Academy of Medicine, Singapore.

The Malaysian Prime Minister had on July 5 this year floated the possibility of replacing the 74-year-old Causeway with a bridge when th launched the JB Waterfront City project.

Singapore had welcomed the idea of replacing the 1.2 km Causeway, officially opened in June 1924, with a bridge.

Dr Mahathir said a study was being carried out "but, we need to get the consent of Singapore".

"If Singapore agrees formally or officially, then we can go ahead," he added.

He said that the Causeway was outdated "and it could not accommodate the kind of traffic going across".

"At the same time, it is blocking the flow of water across the Johor Straits," said Dr Mahathir.

"With the service sector keen to come in, they can help pay for it. We do not see why we should not improve on the connection."

Asked about reports that the Singapore Air Force had violated Malaysian airspace over Johor, he said both countries should "respect each other's airspace". -- BERNAMA

THG RM