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Causeway

S'PORE WILL STUDY PROPOSAL, SAYS BG LEE

By: Tan Hock Guan

SINGAPORE, July 7 (Bernama) -- Singapore will study Malaysia's suggestion to replace the Causeway linking the two countries with a bridge, according to media reports today.

Deputy Prime Minister Brig Gen Lee Hsien Loong told Singapore's radio and television stations that the suggestion was "interesting and we will study it".

He said Johor was developing and Singapore hoped there would be more synergy between Malaysia's southern state and the island republic.

Lee said the Malaysian and Singapore governments had yet to discuss the matter.

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad raised the possibility of demolishing the 1.2km Causeway and replacing it with a bridge to turn the Johor Straits back into a waterway. The British-built Causeway was opened in 1924.

He raised this possibility when launching the RM6 billion JB Waterfront City project in Johor Baharu last Friday.

Singapore's Trade and Industry Minister Yeo Cheow Tong also told Singapore's radio and television stations that a properly designed bridge to replace the Causeway "could improve the traffic capacity".

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

The Second Link is expected to be completed by the end of 1997.

Some 100,000 people now 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 YBY