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Samy-Link

DR MAHATHIR AND GOH CHOK TONG TO WITNESS CONNECTION OF SECOND LINKAGE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Singapore counterpart Goh Chok Tong will witness the works to connect the second linkage, which links Gelang Patah in Johor to Tuas in Singapore, at the end of this month.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said the cabinet, at its meeting today, endorsed July 31 as the date for the connection work.

"I had a meeting with Singapore National Development Lim Hng Kiang last week and we agreed on the date," he told reporters after presenting a RM10,000 contribution from the MIC to national cycling champion M.Kumaresan at his office, here.

Samy Vellu, who is also MIC president, said the second linkage, scheduled for completion in October, would enhance transportation and communication between the two countries.

The bridge, an alternative to the Johor causeway which has as a link between Malaysia and Singapore since 1924, would benefit both countries in terms of shortening the journey and cutting transportation costs, among other things.

Under the agreement signed on May 10, 1994, between the federal government, United Engineers (Malaysia) Berhad and Linkedua (Malaysia) Berhad, the concessionaire, Linkedua, will operate the bridge.

Construction of the bridge on the Malaysian side costs RM266 million and is being carried out by a joint-venture company, UE Construction/Shimizu Corporation. The construction started in February last year.

Samy said the construction of the 2km bridge, 1.7km of which is over Malaysian waters, was being carried out by the two consultants appointed by Malaysia and Singapore.

It is learnt that the construction is more than 85 per cent completed.

Samy Vellu said the bridge would be opened to the public next year and he was satisfied with the construction work which was on schedule. --

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