

23 MAR 1997

Samy-Bridge

JOHOR CAUSEWAY TO BE REPLACED WITH A BRIDGE

PASIR GUDANG, March 23 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet has approved the construction of a bridge to replace the Johor Causeway, maintaining it as the alternative gateway to Singapore, Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said today.

It would be built by the private sector, he added.

"The bridge will be a beauty and equipped with facilities such as separate lanes for lorries, buses and cars, and the road will be wider," he told reporters after opening the Tebrau MIC education seminar and exhibition here.

According to Samy Vellu, the new bridge would allow free passage for ships and boats, unlike the problem experienced at present.

There would also be piped music all along the bridge to keep motorists happy, he said.

Samy Vellu said preliminary discussion at the technical level and finance were being held by the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department with the consortium of builders involved in the project.

The bridge proposal was first mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when he visited Johor last July 5.

Built in 1923, the 1.2km causeway linking Malaysia and Singapore is used by about 100,000 commuters daily.

Meanwhile, construction work on the second link from Tanjung Kupang in Johor and Tuas in Singapore was reportedly progressing smoothly, entering its final phase, and would be completed at the end of the year.

Earlier in his speech, Samy Vellu, who is MIC president, stressed the importance of secondary education to ensure the students' future success.

For this reason, the MIC had carried out several education "recovery" programme (Edurec) in various areas to motivate the students.

The first programme, introduced in Perak, covering Sungai Siput, Kuala Kangsar and Taiping, had good impact and as such it would be extended to other areas, he added. -- BERNAMA

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