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Zahar-Bridge

MELAKA WANTS MALAYSIA-INDONESIA BRIDGE TO BE IN THE STATE

MELAKA, June 18 (Bernama) -- The Melaka Government will be lobbying for the proposed bridge linking Malaysia and Indonesia across the Straits of Melaka to be built in the state.

Chief Minister Datuk Abu Zahar Isnin said today the proposal would be submitted soon with a report on a comprehensive feasibility study.

"We have set up a committee to handle the study and prepare the proposal," he said after chairing a state executive council meeting.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that the proposed bridge, which the Indonesian government had agreed to, would serve as a multipurpose link and greatly benefit both countries.

Abu Zahar said the state's Public Works Department, Economic Planning Unit, and Urban Planning Department had been directed to conduct the feasibility study.

"We must be more pro-active in charting the state's development," he said.

The chief minister believed that the state governments of Johor and Negeri Sembilan might also make a similar proposal.

"We are prepared to work together if necessary," he said, suggesting that the bridge be at the state's border with Negeri Sembilan and Johor.

On efforts to increase the state's participation in the Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Growth Triangle, Abu Zahar said among measures proposed were enhanced cooperation in tourism and transportation, including a ferry service between Melaka, Singapore and Indonesia. -- BERNAMA

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