JOHOR BAHARU, April 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong today opened the Malaysia-Singapore Second Crossing linking Tanjung Kupang in Johor and Tuas in Singapore.

Dr Mahathir and Goh signed a commemorative plaque and jointly cut a ribbon to signify the official opening of the second link between the two countries, in the middle of the bridge.

Present were Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Works Minister Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu, Information Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Rahmat, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Singapore Ministers who attended the event were Minister for National Development Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Law Prof S.Jayakumar and Minister for Communications Mah Bow Tan.

Singapore built 0.3km of the two-kilometre link at a cost of S$600 million while Malaysia built the rest including a six-lane highway to the North-South Highway at a cost of RM1.2 billion.

The toll rates are RM4.80 for motorcars, RM11.40 for vans and small lorries, RM25.50 for big lorries and trailers, RM4.10 for taxis, RM6.20 for buses and RM1 for motorcycles.

An additional RM1.80 is charged for motorcars crossing the Tanjung Kupang, RM3.60 for vans and small lorries, RM4.50 for big lorries and trailers, RM1.80 for buses and RM0.90 for taxis.

The toll rates are between 25 and 48 per cent lower than the toll charges fixed in the original agreement with the project developer and concession holder Linkedua (M) Sdn Bhd.

At the Singapore-end, the toll rates are S$0.50 for motorcycles, S$2.50 for motorcars, S$6 for vans and small lorries, S$12 for big lorries, S$2 for taxis and S$3 for buses.

The Second Crossing was opened to road users on Jan 2 but toll charges were collected only from March 17.

The Second Crossing is linked to a 44-km new expressway leading to the North-South Highway, the Sultan Ismail International Airport in Senai and the city.

The Causeway, the first Malaysia-Singapore crossing, was opened in June 1924. -- BERNAMA

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