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Bridge

BRIDGE PROJECT TO START ONCE ISSUES RESOLVED, SAYS EXCO MEMBER

JOHOR BAHRU, March 20 (Bernama) -- Construction of a bridge to replace the Johor Causeway will commence once several issues have been resolved with Singapore, State Public Works and Infrastructure Committee chairman Zainalabidin Mohamed Zin said today.

He said technical issues like its impact on the environment and land reclamation would have to be settled before the project could be implemented.

Several negotiations would also have to be held with Singapore relating to the project, he told Bernama here.

The RM3.5 billion project comprising the construction of a one-kilometre bridge as well as the custom, immigration and quarantine (CIQ) complex among others is scheduled to begin in January next year and to be completed within three years.

The project involves 102.92ha of land with another 170.12ha of reclaimed area next to the Tanjung Puteri Complex.

The project has been assigned to Konsortium Gerbang Perdana Sdn Bhd. Transwater Corp Bhd, through Detik Nagasari Sdn Bhd, holds 20 per cent shares in the consortium with Diversified Resources Bhd (DRB) holding another 20 per cent and Merong Mahawangsa Sdn Bhd, owned by IBEX Corp Amalgamated Sdn Bhd, with 60 per cent.

Zainalabidin said the bridge would allow better water flow in the Johor Straits and reduced pollution as well as facilitating security patrols by the authorities.

Traffic congestion in the city would also be alleviated since there would be more lanes on the bridge to ease vehicle flow, he said.

He said the bridge's ultra-modern CIQ complex was intended to provide comfort to visitors.

The suggestion to build the bridge was made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed during an official visit to Johor on June 5, 1996.

The 1.2km causeway, built in 1923, is one of two links between Johor and Singapore. The other is at Gelang Patah, linking Johor with Tuas in Singapore.

--BERNAMA

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