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Residents want new concrete bridge

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BENTONG, Tues. - Some 2,500 Kampung Sungai Dua residents here want the Government to replace the decades-old Bailey bridge across Sungai Dua with a concrete structure.

Although plans to replace the bridge were first made during the Sixth Malaysia Plan, residents have ended up using it for the past 31 years.

Kampung Sungai Dua Gerakan branch chairman Leong Yen Kwang said the bridge posed a danger to villagers as it could collapse if used by heavy vehicles currently plying the alternative route to Kampung Sertik.

"It has been 10 years since the Government planned to replace the bridge and we are still waiting for it.

"The bridge is also important as it is the only path for students.

"It is not that we do not trust the Government but it could be that efforts to replace the bridge cannot be carried out due to financial constraints.

"However, we are hoping when the economy improves the Government does not forget the promise made," he said.

On the bridge's background, Leong said the current Bailey bridge was brought from Kampung Cinta Manis, also in Bentong, in 1971 after the first wooden bridge was washed away in a flood.

"Then in 1992, the bridge collapsed during work to build the Sekolah Kebangsaan Cina Sungai Dua hall.

"We then met the Deputy Works Minister (in 1992) to rebuild the Bailey bridge and that was when the Government decided that the bridge be replaced with a concrete bridge," he said after chairing a dialogue with Matthias Cheng Wen Chieh, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's political secretary, and local leaders from the district, including the Bentong MP Liow Tiong Lai.

Meanwhile, Cheng said he would raise the matter with the ministry and related department heads.

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