

25/02/2004

A bridge to the spirit world?

Tunku Yusuf Jawa

UNTIL last year, Kota Baru was served by two bridges that span the Kelantan river - the Sultan Yahya Bridge (linking Wakaf Baru) and the Salor Bridge (Shortcut to Rantau Panjang/ Sungai Golok).

Over the years, traffic across these bridges increased ten-fold. So, to ease the congestion the Tendong bridge was constructed, with easy access to Kampong Bunut Susu.

Soon after the bridge was officially opened in 2003 by the then Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (now Tun), some kind of ghost stories started circulating about the bridge. My 10-year-old niece Majidah once told me that one stormy night as a lone motorist was crossing this bridge from the Bunut Susu side towards Kota Baru, he came across a well-illuminated restaurant filled to capacity.

He forgot about what he had seen until he crossed the same bridge another night, only to realise that what he saw never existed.

Soon, more stories followed from different people who claimed to have sighted the ghost restaurant near the bridge.

Since I was young I have been interested in ghost stories. So one night, out of sheer curiosity, I decided to drive to the Tendong Bridge to see for myself whether my eyes could play tricks like others.

Upon reaching the other end of the bridge, a flash of red light startled me. But I realised it was only the digital traffic lights. Perhaps I was not ready for an appointment with a spectre.

TUNKU YUSUF JAWA
Kota Baru