

Causeway to stay, says Abdullah

ISLAMABAD: The Johor Causeway will remain, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"It's obvious that ships will be able to pass through the Johor Straits if the Causeway is removed.

"But we are concentrating on developing South Johor into a quality trade and investment centre,

"This will also provide economic opportunities for not only Johoreans but all Malaysians. More spin-off activities can also be derived for the benefit of the country," the Prime Minister told the Malaysian media here yesterday on the sidelines of the World Islamic Economic Forum hosted by Pakistan.

Abdullah said this when asked to comment on a remark by the Sultan of Johor, Sultan Iskandar Ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail, at the launching of the South Johor Economic Region (SJER) in Johor Baru on Friday.

"Causeway tu, bukakan... baru negri johor ni maju (the Causeway has to be demolished, only then will Johor develop)," the sultan had said before launching the project.

On another matter, Abdullah, who is Umno president, said that he had not prepared his policy speech for the party's upcoming general assembly.