

U-turn not unexpected

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By SA'ODAH ELIAS
odae@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was not surprised when he heard of the Government's decision to scrap the plan to replace Malaysia's side of the Causeway.

The former prime minister said the Government had reversed decisions that proved unpopular with the people many times before.

"We should consult all the people, including foreigners, when we need to do something in our country. Otherwise, we may end up doing something wrong and then we will be in trouble," he said.

"So consultation with our neighbour is very good and if the neighbour is not agreeable to our plan then we have to consider it even if what we plan to do is in our own country."

He said when he first proposed the project in 1996, there was no opposition either from



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Singapore or the people and there was no question of legal implications.

"Even if there were, we would face it. But if we run away, we are not facing it," he said.

The Government, he said, had waited a long time to start the project and Singapore had used that to dig out all kind of reasons and arguments, including asking for more sand and bigger access to the country's air space.

In Rawang, *Bernama* quoted International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz as saying that trade and economic ties between Malaysia and Singapore would continue as usual.

"The bridge issue will not impact Malaysia-Singapore ties," said Rafidah, who is also the Wanita Umno chief, when met by reporters after visiting Sirim's Machine and Equipment Engineering Centre at the Rasa Industrial Estate.

Rafidah said she would leave for Singapore in August on an annual investment seminar to promote comprehensive two-way trade.

Singapore is one of Malaysia's main trading partners. In 2005, trade amounted to RM88.33bil.