

PERDANA LIBRARY
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION
NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	22 APRIL 2015

CROOKED BRIDGE

*Bridge will
make us a
laughing
stock*

NST- 22/4/2015

I REFER to the crooked bridge issue which appears to be the case of making a mountain out of a molehill. Why do we need a crooked bridge when Singapore does not want to have anything to do with it? What is the point of building the bridge halfway on our side and leaving it jutting out into the open straits?

We don't have to be an engineer to know that Malaysia will become a laughing stock. Certainly, we would earn a place in *Ripley's Believe It Or Not*.

Or perhaps it will be included as one of the Seven Wonders of the World as an engineering feat, defeating the famed Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco.

When the crooked bridge was mooted by then prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to replace the historical Causeway, it was indeed a grand and practical idea for the good of Malaysia and Singapore, just like the Penang Bridge. But, unlike the Penang Bridge, which involves Penang, the crooked bridge involves Singapore, a sovereign nation. Singapore has its own reasons for not agreeing to the proposed bridge as it prefers to maintain the Causeway for sentimental reasons.

Perhaps the strategic aspect, too, was considered by Singapore. Without Singapore's consent to build the bridge on their side, the crooked bridge will be left crooked till it rusts.

By not building the bridge, it is not a question of "giving in to Singapore". It is more about not making this country a laughing stock with the millions of ringgit involved for its construction.

If Singapore is happy with the Causeway, let it be. The people on both sides of the Causeway are used to the daily traffic jam. If there is a need, the Causeway should be widened to have more lanes to ease traffic.

The government under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has made the decision to not construct the crooked bridge and we should support the decision as it was made after taking into account many factors, one of which is Singapore's position.

Hassan Talib, Gombak, Selangor