

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	14 JUNE 2016

# Manong folk thank PM for new bridge

**RELIEVED:** Villagers welcome Najib's pledge of RM43.5m to build bridge

NST-14/6/2016

## KUALA KANGSAR

FOR almost 100 years, villagers of Manong and Seberang Manong, near here, have had to cross Sungai Perak with boats.

The villagers were relieved when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak recently announced that RM43.5 million had been approved

for the construction of the Manong bridge.

Boat operator Mat Isa Abu Bakar, 54, said although his business would be affected, he welcomed the good news. Mat Isa is one of two boat operators in the area.

"It will be convenient for the villagers, especially those who work at the oil palm plantations and rubber estates in Seberang



**A Manong villager** disembarking from a boat at the **Seberang Manong jetty** in Kuala Kangsar yesterday. Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Najib Razak** recently announced that **RM43.5 million had been approved** for the construction of the **Manong bridge**. Pic by Danial Saad

Manong," he said.

He said villagers from Kampung Seberang Manong needed to cross the river to buy things and settle various matters in Manong.

"During high tides and floods, the villagers are left with no choice but to travel almost an hour to reach the other side using the nearest bridge in Kuala Kangsar or Parit."

Mat Isa, who has been a boat

operator for 35 years, said villagers paid RM1 for a return trip and those who rode motorcycles paid RM2.

"The boat service is available from 6am to 6pm daily."

Villager Abdul Hakim Zainal Abidin, 55, agreed with Mat Isa, saying it would be easier for villagers to run their errands, such as going to the bank or post office.

"The villagers can also receive

prompt medical attention once the bridge is ready," he said, adding that they had to wait for at least four passengers before crossing the river on a boat.

Najib made the announcement during his visit here last Friday.

The construction of the bridge is one of five pledges made by Barisan Nasional's candidate Datin Mastura Mohd Yazid.