

JB-Singapore RTS project to proceed, says Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has confirmed the Johor Baru-Singapore Rapid Transit System Link (RTS) project will go ahead.

He, however, said the government would need more time before it could proceed with the project, which had been on hold until the end of the month.

"We will announce the details later. As for the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High-Speed Rail, we have to postpone it by two years because the cost is too high.

"We can't afford it because of the staggering debts left by the previous government," he said after launching the National Transport Policy yesterday.

It was reported that the suspension date for the project had been extended from Sept 30, following a request by the Malaysian government, citing the need for more time to decide on the matter.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke was reported as saying that



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof and other attendees at the launch of the National Transport Policy 2019-2030 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY MOHD YUSNI AHIFIN

the discussion with his Singapore counterpart, Khaw Boon Wan, would be finalised soon.

He said an announcement on the project would be made later this month.

Construction of the RTS project was scheduled to begin this year and expected to be completed by December 2024.

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysia was not ready to use flying cars as a mode of transport.

He said the country was not ready in terms of safety and regulations, despite the announcement that a prototype would be launched by the end of the year.

"At the moment, we are not ready. A lot of people talk about flying cars.

"Just imagine, if everybody owns a flying car, there will be traffic jams up there and the policemen will also be flying to direct the traffic. It's a little bit of a

problem, even in Europe and America.

"Well, the car will fly one day. But not today. Nowadays, we have drones that can carry heavier loads. Maybe, one day, you can fly a drone (flying car)," he said.

Dr Mahathir was asked on the role of the flying car as the National Transport Policy 2019-2030 (NTP 2019-2030) made no mention of its use.

Entrepreneur Development

Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof was reported as saying that Malaysia's first flying car prototype was expected to be launched by year end and that the prototype project was led by the private sector and sponsored by local companies.

Redzuan had said Cyberjaya had been chosen as the test site to develop the air mobility industry, as discussed in the National Development Council in December.