

Government will examine 'crooked bridge' project, says Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government will examine the suggestion to revive the proposal to build the 'crooked bridge' linking Johor Bahru and Singapore.

"The suggestion came from Johor (government) and we will examine," he told reporters after tabling the mid-term review of the 11th Malaysia Plan (2016-2020) in the Dewan Rakyat today.

Dr Mahathir said the 'crooked bridge' can be built at any time as it does not involve the Singapore government, unlike the suggestion to build the third bridge.

"Somebody said they don't want the 'crooked bridge'. They want the third bridge. The third bridge to Singapore ... they have to ask for the consent of Singapore.

"And I think Singapore may not give the consent. But the 'crooked bridge' does not involve Singapore at all. So we can build the 'crooked bridge' at any time," he said.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Osman Sapian said on Tuesday that Dr Mahathir was keen to revisit the idea of the 'crooked bridge' linking Johor to Singapore.

The project was mooted by Dr Mahathir before he retired as the prime minister in 2003 but his successor, Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, cancelled it after he took office.

Earlier, before taking questions from the media, Dr Mahathir said in jest that he didn't think that he could stand for 68 minutes to deliver a speech in Parliament.

"I gave a long and elaborate speech, said to be for 68 minutes, more than one hour. I did not think (of standing up that long). I thought I may have to sit down ... Alhamdulillah (Praise be to God)," he said.

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