

It's final – no scenic bridge

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ON-SITE TOUR: Senal Airport Terminal Services Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Datuk Sidik Shaik Osman (centre) briefing Abdullah about its operations in Johor yesterday. With them are the company's chairman Datuk Ismail Yusof (right), Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman (fourth from left) and Health Minister Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek (left).

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JOHOR BARU: The Government will not budge from its decision to scrap the scenic bridge project, says Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Prime Minister said the decision was made in the interest of the people and after discussions in the Cabinet.

Abdullah was commenting on former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that he would stop making remarks if the bridge across the Johor Strait was built.

"He can say anything but I am the prime minister and I have a job to do.

"Once a decision is made, it is made," he told newsmen after launching the MSC Cyberport Johor here yesterday.

Cyberport, Johor's equivalent of Cyberjaya, hopes to attract some 200 local and foreign companies with investments worth RM400mil within the next year.

Asked whether there was a possibility that the bridge project would be revived later,

Abdullah just kept quiet and shook his head indicating "no".

On whether issues regarding Dr Mahathir were raised during a closed-door meeting with Johor Umno leaders held earlier in the day, Abdullah said several questions were raised but after the discussions he did not think any new issues would be brought up by the state Umno.

Abdullah promised the people of Johor that development in the state would not just focus on its southern region.

He said it would be extended throughout the state and beyond its boundaries to Malacca and the Klang Valley.

Along with the development, the Government would also work on reducing crime and social ills in the state.

"In order to develop and ensure ongoing foreign direct investment in the state, it is crucial to ensure that safety is maintained," he added.

He also gave his assurance that the latest technological advances would be used to help the police fight crime in Johor.