



KEMENTERIAN KERJA RAYA
MALAYSIA

KENYATAAN MEDIA

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF WORKS ON PROPOSED THIRD BRIDGE OF PENANG

I refer to the letter from YAB Lim Guan Eng, Chief Minister of Penang to YAB Prime Minister dated 26 May 2016, seeking approval for a third bridge linking Penang to the mainland in response to the many queries to the earlier-proposed underwater tunnel project.

However, we appreciate that in future, such applications for infrastructure should be addressed to the Works Ministry directly. We would also appreciate that such application letters be free of political rhetoric.

For example, terms like "anasir-anasir jahat" is not helpful and is not typically found in an application letter for major infrastructure.

The Works Ministry commits to a fair evaluation to the third bridge proposal and we seek the cooperation of the Penang Government to share with us all the relevant documentation, so that we are able to make an informed decision in the best interest of the Rakyat.

One major document would be the almost-completed RM305 million feasibility and detailed design studies commissioned and paid for by the Penang Government for the undersea tunnel project and associated linked roads.

The Penang Govt had recently said that these studies are already complete or almost complete and that much of the study can be re-used if the tunnel is changed to a bridge.

If that is the case, submitting these documents to us would assist us in our decision-making.

We will also welcome any other documentation relating to the proposed project. Please understand that it is against the standard practise of the Federal Government to approve a multi-billion ringgit project without as much as a single piece of documentation accompanying the application.

Dikeluarkan oleh:

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This applies for approvals in principle - even if it is to be paid for by other sources such as private financing or by the state government itself.

I'm quite sure even planning permission applications to the Penang local councils require supporting documentation and that approvals in principles are not given based on only a letter.

Introducing a third link may significantly alter the dynamics of the traffic flow in the Federal and state roads system. Therefore, the resulting traffic dispersal flow must be studied in detail and submitted as a part of the process. We do not want to exacerbate the already heavy traffic conditions on the island.

In addition, studies will need to be made to ascertain the impact a third bridge would have to shipping and aircraft operations with its current proposed alignment.

The Works Ministry looks forward to working together with the Penang State Government to ascertain the feasibility and timing of the proposed third link to the mainland, in a professional manner.

DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF
Minister for Works, Malaysia
11 Jun 2016

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