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BUTTERWORTH

Historic plaque to be restored

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FORGOTTEN:
Balakrishnan
says the plaque
needs to be
restored to its
original state

A CONCRETE plaque on the Tunku Abdul Rahman bridge in Prai, which was officiated by Tunku in 1966, is lying abandoned beside the bridge.

The plaque has been in that state for more than 20 years after its rusty nuts and bolts gave way.

Locals say the inaction by the authorities in addressing the matter shows disrespect to the late Tunku.

Veteran environmentalist N. BALAKRISHNAN says the bridge was built to connect Prai and Butterworth.

"Perhaps many young officers who have been transferred from outstation to work here do not know the importance and the historical value of the plaque."

"I was there during the official opening and it was an important event."

BALAKRISHNAN says the bridge was built across the Prai river as an alternative to the pontoon bridge that

connected Butterworth and Permatang Pauh, which was the only federal route from north to south and vice-versa.

"The pontoon bridge caused long lines of vehicles on both sides.

"Workers had to close one side of for vehicles to pass through the entire day.

"Later, the pontoon bridge had to be closed as the buoys below it broke down frequently."

BALAKRISHNAN wants the Public Works Department to restore the plaque for its historical and sentimental value.

• A SENIOR officer from the Penang Public Works Department says their officers had visited the site following an alert from Hotline.

"Our officers have accessed the situation and we will be restoring the plaque to its original state soon."

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