

From dream to reality

Nazmi Suhaimi (25/11/2019)

LUNDU: A dream of the late chief minister Pehin Sri Adenan Satem will soon become a reality and the beneficiaries will be the people of Lundu, Sematan, Telok Melano and those who go to these areas for leisure or business or both.

What Adenan dreamt about was Batang Rambungan Bridge to link Kuching to the three areas stated above. The proposed project has been launched and it is expected to be completed within the next 36 months.

Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Abang Johari Tun Openg, who revealed the dream when he launched the project last Sunday, said Adenan had several dreams but the bridge was one of his favourites as his own constituency, Tanjong Datu, badly needed it.

“Adenan dreamt it and I have done my part to fulfill that dream as he did not live long enough to realise it,” he said.

“If all of you still share fond memories of Adenan and you love Sarawak with all your heart like him, let Gabungan Parti Sarawak (GPS) be the shoulder that you can lean on for more development.”

According to him, the bridge is modelled after the San Francisco Bridge in the United States (The Golden Gate Bridge) with its steel suspension cables.



Abang Johari is all smiles as he arrives for the earth-breaking ceremony of the Batang Rambungan Bridge at Lundu yesterday. Photo: Ghazali Bujang

The bridge, which was a federal government project, was scrapped by Pakatan Harapan (PH). Instead of giving up on it, the state government took over the project and funded it knowing that it would facilitate the development of Lundu district.

Right now, Lundu has a good economic potential being home to a sustained forest reserve and seven national parks.

“Three years from now we will easily travel back and forth between Lundu and Kuching,” said Abang Johari, who reminded everyone that the bridge will have no toll as the cost of building it is absorbed by the state government.

“During the last general election, Pakatan Harapan promised to make the roads in Malaya toll-free, but until now the tolls are still there. Here, in Sarawak, we don’t want tolls. We can drive freely as I have done today,” he said.

Earlier on, Infrastructure and Ports Development Assistant Minister Datuk Julaihi Narawi pointed out that the RM98.5-million bridge is 560 metres long and 10 metres high.

“The bridge was subject to open tender in order to be transparent and to get the best deal,” he said, adding that the bridge would eliminate the need for a ferry which used to transport over 85,000 cars monthly.



STATE PRIDE...An artist's impression of the proposed Rambungan Bridge, which is modelled after The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, USA. The RM98.5-million facility, approved by the previous BN government but cancelled by Pakaran Harapan when it took over Putrajaya, is fully financed by the state government and scheduled for completion in 36 months