

PWD to rebuild Jln Reko bridge

By ESTHER CHANDRAN
estherc@thestar.com.my

THE bridge at Jalan Reko, Kajang, near Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), which was closed at the end of last month after huge cracks were discovered in its structure, will be rebuilt instead of repaired.

Serdang MP Datuk Yap Pian Hon said the Hulu Langat Public Works Department (PWD) would build a four-lane bridge to replace the old two-lane one to meet the growing number of motorists using Jalan Reko.

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, he said: "PWD's suggestion to build a new four-lane bridge is timely as the new bridge would fit in well with plans to upgrade Jalan Reko which has been anticipated under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP)," Yap said.

He said Selangor PWD was in the process of calling for tenders and appointing a consultant for the project, which was expected to take one year to complete.

"The Selangor Public Works Department (PWD) and Hulu Langat Public Works Department, after conducting investigations at the site, found it feasible to rebuild the length of the bridge, instead of undertaking repairs," said Yap.

Cracks in the structure appeared after heavy rains on May 28.

Yap said development upstream had contributed to a reduction in the number of trees along the stream, causing water to flow rapidly and the level of the river to rise resulting in soil erosion.



Work is under way to rebuild the bridge in Jalan Reko from a two-lane to a four-lane structure.

Cracks found throughout the length of the five-metre bridge were considered serious and dangerous hence its closure.

Yap said when the bridge closed, motorists travelling between Kajang and Bandar Baru Bangi used a 7km-long detour through Section 4, Bandar Baru Bangi to get to Persiaran Bangi and Persiaran Universiti.

"Motorists will have to put up with some inconvenience during the construction period but work is already under way to build an alternative road.

"As the bridge will be inaccessible for a year, Selangor PWD is constructing a temporary alternative road nearby the collapsed bridge.

"The temporary road is expected to be opened to traffic next week. It will make life easier for motorists to travel from Kajang to Bandar Baru Bangi, Bangi Lama, Dengkil and Sepang," he said.

Yap said the temporary road would be built on Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) reserve land, road reserve and UKM land.