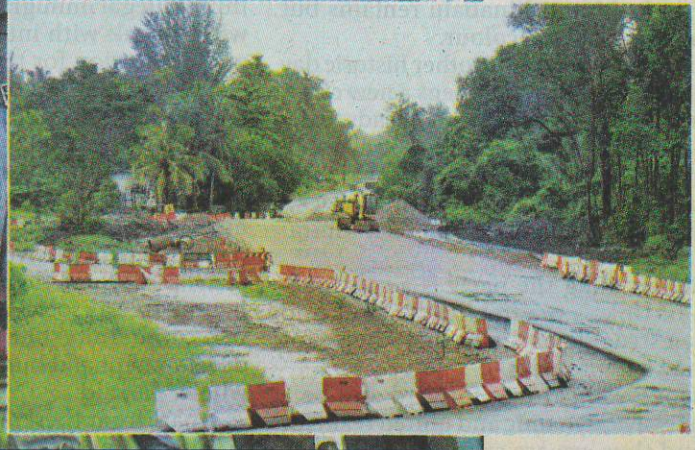




Annuar (third from right) briefed by Public Works Department (PWD) Senior Engineer Ir Sudin Hasim (right) at the Labuan coastal project site yesterday. (Inset): The RM132 million Labuan coastal project scheduled for completion in April next year.



‘Labuan bridge deserves serious attention’

LABUAN: The long-standing proposal to build a bridge to link Labuan to mainland Sabah should be given serious attention because of its potential economic benefits to the island, said Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa.

“We had a lengthy discussion this morning, and I visited the proposed site to understand the potential of having the bridge.

“But as I mentioned earlier, let’s not talk big about the whole thing and later on you may not be able to deliver.

“Nevertheless, we accept the fact that the bridge construction is something that should be given serious attention,” he told reporters after presenting appointment letters to the new leaders of the Labuan People’s Representative Council (MPP) at Wisma Perbadanan Labuan, here, Sunday.

Annuar was on a three-day working visit to Labuan, his first since being appointed Minister in March this year.

He said there might be issues like costing and technical matters to be resolved which would need close co-operation between the Sabah and federal governments.

Annuar said all these aspects must be thoroughly studied before the project could be implemented.

He stressed the need for an in-depth study of Labuan’s development plans in line with its status as a Federal Territory.

“I would like to look at the Labuan development plans from a bigger context...including the government’s early aspiration of turning Labuan into a Federal Territory,” he said.

Meanwhile, Annuar also said the vacant post of Labuan Corporation (LC) Chairman would be filled soon.

“The chairman’s post was neither terminated nor cancelled, but rather all political appointments by the previous Pakatan

Harapan government were automatically dropped after Perikatan Nasional formed the government,” he said.

The post was previously held by Parti Amanah Negara member Datuk Seri Amir Hussien.

“The appointment for the new LC chairman, who is from Labuan, has been made known to the Prime Minister, and he will decide on the candidate,” he added.

Meanwhile, the RM132 million Labuan coastal road project is scheduled for completion in April next year, following a delay of nine per cent progress work due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) and land acquisition issues.

The 5.1km project under 11th Malaysia Plan is set to benefit at least 35 per cent of the road users in the duty-free island such as Kg Tanjung Aru, Nagalang, Kerupang 1, 2 and 3 to enjoy smoother traffic to the town centre. The design-and-build coastal road project commenced in December 2017 from Membedai to Tanjung Aru would improve Labuan’s connectivity and ease traffic congestion along Jalan Tun Mustapha.

This was stated in a project briefing by Public Works Department (PWD) senior engineer Ir. Sudin Hasim to Federal Territories Minister Tan Sri Annuar Musa at the project site, Sunday.

The total project development progress is about 75 per cent, with the remaining 25 per cent on the construction of 1km of road to Membedai.

Earlier, Annuar visited the tuna fish-based produce project at the Fisheries Department here, accompanied by his Ministry Secretary General Datuk Rosida Jaafar, Labuan Corporation (LC) Chief Executive Officer Dr Fary Akmal Osman and LC deputy Chief Executive Officers Ibrahim Tambil and Rithuan Ismail.