

RESIDENTS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER HAZARDOUS BRIDGE

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The by-pass bridge constructed in place of the dilapidated old bridge at Digarolla in Moratuwa opened for use of the public after the present government came into power, but the construction of the permanent bridge has been dragging on without any attention by the authorities who come out with lame excuses.

Residents of the area pointed out that the authorities of the present government, that opened the temporary bridge about an

year ago promised to complete the construction works of the permanent bridge within six months. They said during rush hours the pedestrians and even motorists used the old bridge endangered with collapse regardless of its danger. They warned that the old bridge if collapsed with a vehicle, would end up in a massive disaster.

A resident of Digarolla Manimel Jayasundara (65), said the project had been dragging on for more than five years due to the change of contractors.



"The project inaugurated by the previous government with much pomp and heraldry had been stalled at times when the contractors changed. This resulted in a colossal waste of public funds and building material. The pedestrian passages alongside the old bridge have decayed and even a child drowned when he fell into the river through the broken planks. When the temporary by-pass bridge opened about an year ago the authorities promised to complete the bridge in six months the maximum," he said.

Residents of the area including private bus operators, drivers and pedestrians requested the government to complete the project that had been dragging on for about five years.



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