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KUALA KUBU BARU, Sat. —
The Government is prepared to declassify certain documents under the Official Secrets Act (OSA) if there is a necessity for the people to know the truth about some of its development projects, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was willing to allow all quarters to read the documents from the beginning to the end so that they could know the truth.

"The records will show whether or not the Government had been improper in its decision to implement certain projects.

"Although these records are classified under the OSA, we will have to expose the truth to the people if it is felt that the people must know. The record will tell who made the decision, who were present at the meetings and all there is to know. No problem," he told a Press conference after opening the Hulu Selangor Umno division delegates' conference here.

National security

He was asked whether he would respond to allegations by some party leaders that the Government had not followed the proper channel in implementing some projects like the Penang Bridge, the Dayabumi, the Proton Saga and the Perwaja Steel Mill.

Dr Mahathir said: "I don't have any response to that. The truth is in the records that we have."

He stressed that the Government would release the information pertaining to these projects if the issue was regarded as important.

"The information is not that important in terms of national security. It is only pertaining to proceedings of the National Action Council and the Cabinet (that is important)."

Asked on the widely-rumoured challenge against him by Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, he said: "It is not a challenge against anyone... it is merely a contest."

On whether there was a need for a compromise between the four "giants" (Dr Mahathir, Datuk Musa Hitam, Encik Ghafar Baba and Tengku Razaleigh), he said: "I don't know what is meant by a compromise. To have two presidents, three deputy presidents and 115 vice-presidents... that will be a compromise for everybody."

"I read an article saying that we should have three Deputy Prime Ministers. So, from which party do we choose them?."