

Dr M turns tables on Lim over need for second bridge

DATUK Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad yesterday "turned the tables" on the DAP in the Dewan Rakyat by asking it to decide whether a second link with Singapore should be built.

The Prime Minister said this when replying to points raised during debate on the Sixth Malaysia Plan.

DAP secretary-general and Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Tanjong) had last week alleged irregularities in the proposed project to build a bridge to Singapore at Gelang Patah in Johor.

Dr Mahathir wanted Mr Lim to decide whether the project should be carried out or not.

"If not, then the DAP should announce that it is against any new bridge to link Singapore and accept responsibility for solving the traffic congestion at the Causeway.

"If the DAP's stand is that national economic interests require that a bridge be built, then he should determine where it should be located and the DAP should be responsible for getting the agreement of the PAP party and Government in Singapore and be willing to

pay whatever additional costs.

"The DAP should also pay compensation and resettle the residents affected by the new location chosen by the DAP."

His challenge did not draw any immediate response from Mr Lim in the House.

To Mr Lim's call that Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Osman Aroff resign for being a director of Sri Kinabalu Sdn Bhd which was the contractor for the defective Masjid Tanah ammunition dump, Dr Mahathir said he was not an active director.

"As usual, the Menteri Besar has lent his name in the hope of making some income, as many non-Malay businessmen appoint Malays as company directors to give the impression that they abided by the New Economic Policy.

"The duties of a director is not to check every day whether enough cement and steel was used during construction of a building. This task is given to supervisors both from the contractor's side as well as the owner's side.

"If Tan Sri Osman has to resign as Menteri Besar be-

cause the ammunition dump is not built properly, then he (Mr Lim) also has to resign as secretary-general and retire from the DAP because the party lost the general election and he was the director of elections in Penang.

"And, apart from the drama of quitting, he is still secretary-general, MP and State Assemblyman.

"Doesn't he feel morally responsible for the DAP's defeat after making baseless allegations and victimising an innocent old man by parading his name and picture?"

"He does not have any morality and has no right to talk about anyone's moral responsibility."

The Prime Minister explained that Petronas was involved in the development of Kuala Lumpur City Centre through Seri Kuda Sdn Bhd because it needed more office-space and that it was purely a commercial deal.

Land for public parks

□ FROM PAGE FIVE

in order to ease congestion.

He said the Government had also stipulated that no less than 50 per cent of the 38-hectare land must be public parks. This alone caused the price of the land to double.

Anyway, he said, Petronas had commissioned a

valuer to value the land before deciding on the deal.

"If Petronas did not buy the Seri Kuda shares, scores of other companies were willing to do so," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Mr Lim had twisted the facts. He said if one had a dirty mind, one would also assume others had it too.