

# Opposition leaders' contrasting views

By MOSES LOO

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PETALING JAYA: Two opposition party leaders have come out with contrasting views on the Government's efforts to eliminate terrorism in the country.

DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang has urged the Government to issue a White Paper on the threat of terrorism, if it wants to get national support on its effort to fight the menace.

"The police must be forthcoming to take all political parties and the people into its confidence on the terrorist and the al-Qaeda threat in Malaysia, and it should not delay any further in issuing a White Paper on the subject," he said, adding that it would reflect poorly on the authorities if Singapore should come out

first with its own White Paper.

Lim added that there was now a need to subject all police and government claims concerning security to the most intense scrutiny as they had contradicted their own statements made earlier.

He said that for six months, the police and the Government kept saying that al-Qaeda had no links here.

"In the first batch of KMM arrests under the ISA in August last year, the police and the Government went to great pains in denying that the KMM had any links with the al-Qaeda network or that Osama bin Laden's terrorist network had any links or cells in Malaysia.

"But suddenly early this month, the Government not only admitted that the al-Qaeda network had

recruited about 50 Malaysians into its operations (in an interview with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad published by Japanese magazine *Chuokoron* on Jan 10), but the figure has escalated to another 200 in a matter of two weeks," he said.

However, Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) president Dr Syed Husin Ali believed that it was not a good idea for the Government to issue a White Paper.

"This is because White Papers produced in the past on different events have been filled with one-sided information from the police and biased conclusions of the Government.

"Therefore, we know a White Paper on the KMM this time will not be any different," he said.