

Show us the proof, Mahathir tells govt

PUTRAJAYA: Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has suggested that the Government declassify documents relating to talks between Malaysia and Singapore on the aborted bridge project.

This would enable Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar to provide documented proof to substantiate his claims that Malaysia, in its pursuit to build a new bridge to Singapore, did not offer the sale of sand to the republic and the use of Johor airspace by the Singapore airforce planes, he said.

"The Official Secrets Act should not be used to hide untruths," Dr Mahathir said yesterday in a statement issued by his special officer Sufi Yusoff.

He said there was nothing in writing to suggest that the proposal to sell sand and use of Malaysian airspace by the republic's air force had actually originated from Singapore.

The Foreign Minister had said Dr Mahathir's claims on the two issues were baseless and "devoid of any truth" as it was the republic that made the approach on the issues during negotiations over the bridge to replace the Causeway.