

Govt will not declassify all papers

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KOTA BARU: The Government cannot declassify all documents pertaining to ongoing Malaysia-Singapore disputes as some are still needed for future negotiations.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said further negotiations were in the pipeline and these could possibly include a revival of the building of a bridge linking the two countries.

"And we still have negotiations on the package deal concerning KTM land in Singapore, sale of raw water, limited use of our air space and Central Provident Fund (CPF) withdrawals," he said here yesterday after briefing Kota Baru Umno members on the issue.

Syed Hamid said the relevant documents just declassified were solely to answer Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's allegations.

He also confirmed that Singapore had on its own accord already released some of the documents in the past.

On the allegations, he called for a

halt of airing such matters in the media as it was undermining both the Government and Umno and also providing the Opposition with issues to exploit.

Earlier during the briefing, Syed Hamid urged Dr Mahathir to re-examine the facts related to the protracted issue of the bridge project.

Some of the claims the former prime minister had made were inaccurate, due perhaps to an oversight or miscommunication, he said.

"I also hope that the release of the documents will put an end to the suspicions stirred up over the project," he added.

Syed Hamid said the continued wrangle over the issue had affected Malaysia's standing internationally as investors had been put off by the matter.

"We have to look at the long-term implications and not be caught up over such issues," he said.

He also called on those who still had grouses about the matter to use the proper channels, saying that a public condemnation could result in widespread confusion over government policies.