

Kit Siang: Are bridge letters under OSA?

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OPPOSITION leader Lim Kit Siang wanted to know whether the correspondence between Malaysia and Singapore on the "scenic bridge" was classified as an official secret.

If it was, then former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should be charged under the Official Secrets Act for leaking government secrets, he said at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Lim noted that ambassador-at-large Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak had revealed that there were two letters pertaining to the issue, and asked if there were any more such documents.

Ahmad Fuzi made public some contents of the letters when he explained the rationale for scrapping the bridge project.

"While we welcome the exposure of the letters, we want to know if there were more of such letters, and if these letters were official secret documents," Lim said.

"If they were, they should be declassified. We want to know what went



■ Reports by M.K. Megan, Azura Abas and Ranjeetha Pakiam

wrong to the extent that the construction of the bridge had to be scrapped."

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said Lim had bad intentions in raising the bridge issue.

"I do not think Dr Mahathir had any such intentions," Syed Hamid said.

"He was merely voicing his opinion. It is not right to drag him into the argument when he is not here to defend himself."

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Lim

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He said it was ironic that Lim, who was always against the OSA, was now keen for it to be used.

Syed Hamid did not respond to the question of whether the letters were classified as official secrets but said in this particular occasion, the OSA need not be used.