

Dr M: I have the right to speak up

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SELANG: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he has decided to voice his concern and views on the scrapping of the scenic bridge project, despite making a promise not to interfere with government matters, as "this is the limit."

"I had promised not to interfere with politics and I have not said anything about the many wrong things which have been done. But this is the limit.

"When you sell your country and allow other people to direct you in your country, I think I have limits. To surrender your sovereignty to Singapore as if

you are scared does not speak well of the self-respect you have for yourself.

"I will continue to write letters if necessary - if I feel the country's sovereignty is surrendered to other people. Even as a citizen, I have the right," he said, when met at KLIA upon his arrival from London yesterday.

Asked to comment on Backbenchers Club chairman Datuk Shahrir Samad's statement calling for him to stop commenting on government projects and be happy that his Vision 2020 was being upheld by Prime Minister Datuk

Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's administration, Dr Mahathir said he did not "care what other people said against him."

The former prime minister said that his questioning the decision to scrap the bridge project had nothing to do with causing disunity within Umno.

"I am talking about Malaysia's self respect and sovereignty. This is our country and we are building a bridge in our territory but have to ask the permission of another country.

"Where is the sovereignty?" he asked.