

DPM: We

are right

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Cabinet reaffirms decision to scrap bridge

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak (pic left) has re-affirmed the Cabinet's support for the

decision. It has taken into account all factors considered important and necessary in this situation.

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its sovereignty.

"Since 2000 until now, the Government has not changed its decision not to export sand to Singapore," he said.

Malaysia as an independent and sovereign state has complete power and authority over its territory, and in exercising that authority, no other state may interfere with its affairs, he

added.

Najib said that during bridge discussions, the focus was to secure Singapore's agreement to construct a full straight bridge.

"The mandate given to the Malaysian delegation by the Government to discuss the two issues (sand and air space) with Singapore was never intended to be the Government's final decision to agree to their request.

"Having taken into account all factors, the Government decided not to go ahead with the construction of the bridge as it did not agree to give up air space or sand.

"As such, the issue of Malaysia giving up its sovereignty or being a half-past six country with no guts does not arise."

Najib said the Wayleave Agreements, which purportedly

allowed Malaysia to remove the Public Utility Board water pipelines by giving six months notice, should not be looked at in isolation.

"I would like to point out that the Wayleave Agreements, the 1961 and 1962 Johor-Singapore Water Agreements, and the 1965 Separation Agreement must be considered in its entirety to determine the rights and

obligations of Malaysia and Singapore.

"Further clarifications on this aspect will be made by the Attorney-General, taking into account Malaysia's national interest," he said.

In Putrajaya, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik gave the Malaysian Government a 10 out of 10, saying that it is a "10 o'clock govern-

ment with guts" as it had put its foot down to scrap the scenic bridge project.

"It is the wisest decision and there is no loss of face or sovereignty; (it is) doing the right thing that has to be done."

Dr Lim called on those with "other ideas" to think rationally and not create unnecessary difference of opinion in public.

'Issue of Malaysia giving up sovereignty does not arise'