

'Explain govt's stand over Dr M's statements'

The Sun

THREE MPs asked the Prime Minister's Department (JPM) to explain the government's stand over the statements made by former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the bridge issue.

They said an official statement from JPM is necessary to clear the air as Mahathir's statements had created some undesirable situations due to his differing views with the current premier.

Datuk Rosli Mat Hassan (BN-Dungun) touched on the note in the form of an open letter from Mahathir and letters between Malaysia and Singapore relating to the bridge.

Rosli said: "It is a vital issue because the letter had come from a former PM whose views were not concurrent with the decision made by the current government and cabinet under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"I hope JPM would give a classification or some information to us whether the

kind of note written by Tun is actually appropriate or not with reference to the stand made by the government."

Datuk Kamaruddin Jaffar (PAS-Tumpat) said the government should not simply close the issue but must deal with it either openly or behind closed door.

"Even if the issue cannot be debated openly, it must be brought to a special parliamentary committee so it can be understood properly.

"We need to deal with the issue of international relations in a more effective way, while not compromising the country's dignity," he added.

Datuk Mohd Said Yusof (BN-Jasin) said Malaysia owes Mahathir a lot for what he had contributed to the country but the situation now is "sad".

"Malaysians' respect for Tun is not for bargain (tidak boleh dijual beli) but in this case, if he continues to interfere, we are quite sad," he added.