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Saturday January 27, 2007

Make toll agreement public, government urged

PETALING JAYA: Transparency International-Malaysia (TI-M) and Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang have voiced serious concern that toll concessionaire agreements remained classified secrets, saying it was contrary to the Government's principle of transparency.

"The classification of such information as 'official secrets' seem to counter the principles of transparency, accountability and good governance that the current administration is trying to promote," said TI-M president Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam.

"Such information is of vital public interest with direct impact on the use of public funds and taxpayers' interests."

TI-M said it called upon the Government to explain why such information is considered "official secrets" and the legal and moral grounds that justify and sanction such a decision.

Lim said it was deplorable that up to now, neither Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu nor anyone in the Cabinet had been able to explain why privatisation agreements and documents, whether highway or water concessions, should continue to be kept secret.

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