KUALA KLAJWANG: Parliamentary Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang should disclose the sources and information providers who helped the opposition draw up the alternative budget.

Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said if Hadi refused to divulge the sources, action could be taken against him under the Criminal Procedure Code or the Penal Code for obstructing government administration.

“The fine is not that high but we can charge him under these laws,” he told reporters, when asked to comment on what action could be taken against Hadi, who is the Terengganu Mentri Besar, for soliciting information from government officers to prepare the alternative budget.

“Hadi could also be charged under the Official Secrets Act 1972. We don’t want a leader to impinge the law of the country. He is duty-bound to tell the police the persons and parties who gave him the information.

The ball is at his feet,” he told reporters after launching the Jelebu Barisan Nasional jogathon here yesterday. Dr Rais said copying facts was not an offence but retrieving information from documents classified as secrets was an offence.

“The police should investigate this matter, irrespective whether it is me or top government officials. If they are found to have leaked out government secrets, they are liable to be charged under Section 8 of the Official Secrets Act,” he added.

Dr Rais said the Government wanted to know how the information was acquired and also to check whether the alternative budget was similar to that drawn up by the federal Treasury or otherwise.

“I wonder why a person holding a high government position should resort to using the federal government’s official secrets to prepare the opposition’s budget.

“In doing so, he has breached the country’s laws. Maybe, he did not expect the authorities to investigate the matter,” he added. — Bernama