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MAHATHIR NOT AWARE OF THIRD PARTY SOURING MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE TIES

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PULAU REDANG, July 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he was not aware whether there was really a +third party+ trying to sour Malaysia-Singapore relations.

+Even if there is a third party, we should not be influenced by it+ he told reporters after visiting the Redang Island Resort project here.

He reiterated that Malaysia's foreign policy was clear; it wanted to be friendly and co-operative with its neighbours and +newspapers in Malaysia are very sensible about this matter+.

He was commenting on newspaper reports in Singapore which said that relations between Singapore and Malaysia, especially Johor, were tense.

+There should not be any tension provided that newspapers (in Singapore) do not play up the issue,+ he said. -- more

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Mahathir-ties 2 (last) Pulau Redang

Asked for his comment on a Singapore minister's rejection of a proposal by Johor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to set up a bilateral commission to overcome problems between the two countries, he said: +We should not take note of what one minister said.

+But if that is the Singapore government stand, I can't help it.+

Dr Mahathir also said he was satisfied that the developer of the RIR project had taken all necessary measures to preserve the environment and avoid damage to coral reefs in the area.

+At first, I was a bit sceptical but after seeing what the developer did to minimise pollution, I think the project is okay,+ he added. -- Bernama

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