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Mahathir-Railway

M'SIA IS PREPARED TO STUDY SINGAPORE'S PROPOSAL ON TG PAGAR

By: Muin Abdul Majid

MANILA, Nov 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia is prepared to study the proposal by Singapore to move the railway station owned by KTM Berhad at Tanjung Pagar to another location so that the land could be developed on a joint-venture between both countries.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chock Tong here, the Prime Minister said Malaysia had submitted its proposal to turn Tanjung Pagar as the first station for the railway network linking Singapore to Kunming, in China.

"He feels that Tanjung Pagar is not so suitable because the area already has infrastructural facilities such as the highway.

"Goh Chok Tong said a new terminal may be built at another location and Tanjung Pagar can be developed jointly," said Dr Mahathir.

He said both parties would study the proposal and determine the cost structure for the development of the project which was expected to escalate.

They also discussed the need for cooperation in censoring broadcast materials including Internet from western countries.

In addition, Dr Mahathir said they also discussed the question of water supply from Malaysia to Singapore.

The Prime Minister's meeting with Goh Chok Tong was held on the eve of the meeting of the Heads of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) at Subic Bay, tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir also held meetings with Taiwan's representative to the Apec, Dr Khoo Chen-Fu and New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger.

On his meeting with Taiwan's representative, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would study Dr Khoo's suggestion for the establishment of a Malaysia-Taiwan Joint Commission.

Dr Mahathir said he also raised the question of increasing Taiwan's investment in Malaysia.

On his meeting with Bolger, the Prime Minister said he put forward Malaysia's view on the acceptance of new members as soon as possible instead of waiting for two years as had been agreed at the Apec ministerial meeting.

Malaysia also stressed the need for Asean to accept Myanmar's entry into the regional grouping.

Asked on the foreign media reports including the Australian media which criticised Malaysia for stopping the Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor from being held in Kuala Lumpur recently, Dr Mahathir said usually most foreign media purposely criticised the developing nations.

"This is their way. They don't see others as being right at all, they only see themselves as being right. Sometimes (they) should hold a mirror and look (at themselves)," he added. -- BERNAMA

MAM SHY AO