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Dr M: I'm not aware of politician's request

Lokman Mansor

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday he was not aware of any request for political asylum in Malaysia by Singaporean opposition candidate Tang Liang Hong.

As long as there are proper travel documents, anyone including Tang can enter the country.

"If he wants to come, we do not stop him as long as his travel papers are in order. It is not that we are protecting him. He has a right to be here," Dr Mahathir said at a press conference after a site tour of the Mines Resort City in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He was asked to comment on reports that Tang had temporarily sought refuge in Malaysia, fearing for his safety after being branded a "Chinese chauvinist" by Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Tang, who lost in last week's general election as a candidate of the Worker's Party, was said to have left for Johor over the weekend.

Dr Mahathir said if there were an extradition request for Tang and he was guilty of a criminal act, then the Malaysian Government will comply.

"But if it is for non-criminal reasons, there is no agreement with Singapore for extradition," he said.

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