

24/03/1997

Govt will not impose conditions on Singapore: Dr M

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THE Government will not impose any conditions on Singapore to mend ties with Malaysia, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said. But Malaysia is not about to do anything extraordinary to heal the rift.

"It is the decision of the Cabinet that we're not going to do anything extraordinary about it. Let time heal (the rift). Who makes the matter worse or not, is something for everybody to think," he told a news conference at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport, Subang, on his return from Saudi Arabia yesterday.

The Prime Minister said it will take time, though, to restore the ties between Malaysia and Singapore although the Cabinet has accepted Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew's apology.

Dr Mahathir was asked if the Singapore Government should take the first step to mend bilateral ties, which took a wrong turn over a disparaging statement on Johor made by Lee in a sworn affidavit at a Singapore court. Lee has since apologised and made a move to retract the offending statement.

On calls made by certain parties that Lee's son, Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, should also apologise, Dr Mahathir said:

"I am not bothered by who apologises. If other people want to talk about it, that is their right. But I don't want to talk about it.

"As I said, although we feel that it's over, the wound will take time to heal."

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