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Mahathir-Singapore

REPORTS ON M'SIA FREEZING TIES WITH S'PORE NOT TRUE, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, March 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today media reports that Malaysia had frozen fresh bilateral dealings with Singapore are not true.

RTM, in its 6pm news bulletin, reported the prime minister as saying this to reporters at the end of his visit to Osaka, Japan.

Dr Mahathir also said that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had contacted him yesterday. RTM did not mention Anwar's intention but it was believed that it was to explain the cabinet decision last Wednesday.

The local press reported that the cabinet, at its weekly meeting, had decided to freeze fresh bilateral dealings with Singapore following the diplomatic row precipitated by Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew's disparaging remarks on Johor.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha, who is acting Foreign Minister, in a statement yesterday, confirmed that the Cabinet had discussed several issues pertaining to Malaysia's relations with Singapore.

However, he stressed that the mass media reports on the relations were "inaccurate" and that there was no decision to freeze relations with the republic. -- BERNAMA

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