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SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER WELCOMES MAHATHIR'S ASSURANCE

By: Tan Hock Guan

SINGAPORE, March 29 (Bernama) -- Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong welcomes Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's assurance that media reports of a freeze in Malaysia-Singapore relations are not true.

In a statement today, Goh said he was saddened that "our bilateral relations have been upset by Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew's remarks on Johor".

He said Lee had said that it was never his intention to cause offence and had "immediately apologised to me when the remarks became public".

"He has also apologised to Malaysia. The Malaysian Cabinet has accepted his apology," said Goh.

"We believe that closer cooperation between Malaysia and Singapore will benefit both countries," he added

Goh said Singapore would do its part to restore and improve cooperation at a pace Malaysia was comfortable with.

"We want good relations with Malaysia and my remarks on March 25 were intended to be helpful and to improve relations," he said. -- BERNAMA

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