

# Umno Youth wants Goh to state official stand

JOHOR BARU: Umno Youth has called for a suspension of all new bilateral relations with Singapore until Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong has stated his stand on several issues affecting both countries.

"Umno Youth suggests that the Government consider suspending bilateral ties with Singapore until Goh states his country's official stand relating to issues that have risen, and based on the early agreement and understanding between him and Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We are of the strong opinion that the statements of the republic's Foreign Minister and Home Affairs Minister do not reflect the true feelings of the republic and Umno Youth would like Goh to explain his country's official stand," it said in a statement yesterday.

The statement urged the Government to stand firm in any dealings with Singapore especially in issues which relate directly to, or affect, Malaysia's dignity and sovereignty.

It cited eight contentious issues between the

two countries which had to be addressed, adding that these should be kept separate from each other and that a resolution achieved on Government-to-Government basis was best.

The issues cited were the relocation of the CIQ to Woodlands, supply of raw water to Singapore, Singapore media coverage on the KLIA, Pasir Gudang port, Malaysian CPF savings, KTM Bhd land, Pulau Batu Putih and the high interest rates offered by Singapore banks on Malaysian deposits.

"While we urge diplomacy, Umno Youth also urges the Government to take a firm stand in any discussions with Singapore to protect the country's rights," it said.

On the supply of raw water to Singapore, the movement suggested that only processed water be supplied to the republic, after the expiry of the two water agreements in the years 2011 and 2061.

"We hope the Government will also set a realistic time-frame and price for water supply compared to those of the present agreements so as not to burden future generations," it said.

In KOTA TINGGI, Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said they would send representatives on trains to Tanjung Pagar daily over the next three weeks to get feedback on Singapore's actions and procedures following the railway controversy.

He said the movement was not afraid of any action that may be taken by the republic against its representatives during their train rides, which would begin today.