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DAP proposes conference

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The DAP is proposing a Malaysia-Singapore parliamentary conference to seek a settlement on the Custom, Immigration and Quarantine issue.

Its secretary-general, Lim Kit Siang, said the proposed conference, to be attended by fully mandated Members of Parliament from both sides, should also discuss other matters affecting relations between the two countries.

"I have given notice of the proposal to Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail and will move a motion of urgent and definite public interest on the latest strain in Malaysia-Singapore relations."

In his statement today, Lim said his motion, which will seek an adjournment of Parliament to debate the issue, would stress the desire of people from both countries for their Governments to amicably settle the issue.

"It does not speak well for good neighbourliness and over three decades of Asean spirit and solidarity for Malaysia and Singapore to be at each other's throat as if they have always been implacable enemies."

Lim, who is the Opposition leader, added that parliamentary delegations at the proposed conference will explore and reach a new consensus to build a new Malaysia-Singapore relationship where both countries can co-operate closely for peace, development, democracy, human rights and the creation of a vibrant regional civil society.

He said the DAP was also hoping for support from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Government for its proposal.

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