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Mahathir-Singapore

MAHATHIR: MALAYSIA MAY REVIEW TIES WITH S'PORE IF RELATIONS WORSEN

PULAU PINANG, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia did not rule out the possibility of reviewing bilateral ties with Singapore if the strained relationship between both countries worsened.

The Prime Minister, however, said as of now the situation had not reached a serious stage.

Dr Mahathir said this in a media conference when asked whether Malaysia would review bilateral relations with Singapore as disputes still existed between both countries despite Malaysia regarding Singapore as a good neighbour.

He had earlier opened the Pulau Pinang Umno Building "Menara Umno" at Jalan Macalister here as part of the itinerary of his one-day visit to the state.

Malaysia-Singapore ties strained following the republic's directive to relocate Malaysia's Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) checkpoint at the Tanjong Pagar railway station to Woodlands.

Malaysia decided to retain its CIQ checkpoint at Tanjong Pagar located on KTM Bhd land.

Dr Mahathir was also asked on the call by a Singapore Member of Parliament urging Singaporeans not to use the train service to Malaysia as they could be regarded as illegal immigrants because the Malaysian Immigration did not stamp their passports.

To that, Dr Mahathir replied, "it's up to them. We did not say so."

Asked on the spread of rumours through the Internet, Dr Mahathir said, it was an act of sabotage to weaken the country's efforts to tackle the economic problems.

Although there was no evidence to prove that they were acts of sabotage or conspiracy, "what is clear is that the effects of the rumours were similar to that of a conspiracy," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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