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PM to brief Supreme Council members

Kamarul Yunus

UMNO President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will brief the party's Supreme Council members tomorrow on issues concerning the relocation of Singapore's Customs, Immigration and quarantine (CIQ) checkpoint from the Tanjong Pagar railway station to Woodlands.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said Cabinet ministers did not raise the issue at the weekly meeting yesterday.

"The fact that the matter was discussed in Parliament on Tuesday is a testimony that Malaysians fully support the Prime Minister's stand on the issue.

"The (Umno) party has no problem in supporting the Prime Minister . . .," he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after Dr Mahathir launched a two-month book donation campaign.

He was asked to comment on the party's stand on the dispute with Singapore.

Malaysia has said that it will not move out of Tanjong Pagar following the republic's move to shift the CIQ to Woodlands.

Dr Mahathir had on Tuesday reminded Singapore not to take Malaysia's good nature for granted, adding it is not his intention to arouse the anger of Malaysians, but the fact remains a fact.

"We are not asking much (from Singapore) . . . just the same treatment we accord them," he had said when addressing some 10,000 people, comprising Umno and Barisan Nasional leaders, community chiefs, government officials and members of organisation in Johor Baru on Tuesday.

Later after attending the Umno disciplinary and management committee meeting, Sabbaruddin said the tourism industry seems not affected by Singapore's move to relocate its CIQ facilities to Woodlands.

"Although I must admit there are problems on passengers using the railway service, sale of tickets by KTM Bhd still continue as normal.

"However, it is too early to gauge the impact from such a move by the republic," he added.

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