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Yong-Singapore

SABAH SENIOR MINISTER REGRETS SINGAPORE'S ARROGANT ATTITUDE

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 7 (Bernama) -- President of the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) Datuk Yong Teck Lee today regretted the arrogant manner in which Singapore has handled the Tanjung Pagar-Woodlands issue.

This had strained the long-standing good relations between the two countries, he said in a statement.

"Why pick a fight with a good neighbour at a time when they know very well we are facing difficulties as a result of the financial and economic problems in East Asia that have adversely affected our countries," he said.

Yong the former Chief Minister and now a senior Minister in the Sabah Cabinet said both countries should stand together and support each other in this crucial time.

"It has chosen to hit Malaysia when we are fighting a grave battle against external forces threatening the economic wellbeing of our nation. Hence we suspect that Singapore has ulterior motives," he said.

Sabah Malaysians were proud of the firmness and patience shown by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other national leaders in dealing with this matter, he said.

"We in Sabah are happy to see that the Prime Minister has taken the correct step by telling Singapore not to take Malaysia for granted, thus perserving our national dignity and integrity," Yong said.

"Our Prime Minister has always been advocating the concept of Smart Partnership and Prosper Thy Neighbour. However Singapore does not seem to appreciate the friendship and goodwill of Malaysia and has shown scant attention to the need to preserve good relations with its neighbour," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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