

10 AUG 1998
Assembly-Singapore
SELANGOR BACKS STAND ON CIQ ISSUE

SHAH ALAM, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- The Selangor State Legislature today passed a motion supporting the Malaysian Government's stand to retain the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) checkpoint at Tanjong Pagar despite being asked to move to Woodlands by the Singapore Government.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, who tabled the motion, said it was time Malaysia reviewed its approach with Singapore if its good nature was taken for granted by the republic.

While expressing the state government's support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to tackle the issue, he said, the solution to the issue lies with Singapore if it wants to resolve it.

He also called on the federal government to review all its dealings with Singapore.

Malaysia-Singapore ties strained when Malaysia refused to shift the CIQ checkpoint to Woodlands on Aug 1.

Abu Hassan said Selangor regretted Singapore's failure to reciprocate to Malaysia's good nature and tolerance.

He also suggested that laws and regulations be used to monitor the activities of Singaporeans working in Malaysia as was done by Singapore to Malaysian officials serving in the republic.

He said Malaysia had allowed its ministries, departments and agencies to deal directly with Singapore in many matters and in the process, it had exploited the situation to the fullest.

He said Singapore had always adopted an exploitative stand in the region which was evident from its move to strengthen its armed forces and tried to be above Malaysia in all aspects.

The motion was debated by six assemblymen including Dr Oon Hong Geok of the DAP.

-- BERNAMA
AZH TS