

29 JUN 1998  
Singapore-Malaysia  
SEVERAL OUTSTANDING ISSUES REMAIN

SINGAPORE, June 29 (Bernama) -- Several outstanding issues remain unresolved in the bilateral relations between Singapore and Malaysia, Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar told Parliament here today.

Among these was the supply of water although Malaysia had given an undertaking to continue to supply water to Singapore even after the two existing agreements expire in 2011 and 2061.

Jayakumar said Singapore sought a legally binding Water Agreement which set out the terms and conditions for the supply of water when the present agreements expire.

He said there had been several rounds of negotiations between Singapore and Malaysia but "both sides have not reached an agreement on water yet".

He said talks with Malaysia would continue when Malaysia is ready.

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Singapore counterpart Goh Chok Tong met in Kuala Lumpur in February this year whereby the issue of water supply was discussed.

Malaysia had agreed to continue to supply water to Singapore when the present agreements expire but the 60-day period set when the two prime ministers met in February to confirm the terms and conditions for the new agreement has now lapsed.

Singapore gets about half of its daily water needs from Johor under the existing two agreements.

Jayakumar also said that Singapore would move its Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) facilities from the Tangjong Pagar railway station to Woodlands on Aug 1.

On Pedra Branca (Pulau Batu Putih), he said both sides had agreed to refer Malaysia's claim to the International Court of Justice.

He added this was a positive development as it brought the issue a step closer to resolution.

-- BERNAMA

THG JK