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Shahidan-Singapore

SHAHIDAN WANTS SINGAPORE TO EMULATE TOLERANT THAILAND

KANGAR, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said today Singapore should emulate Thailand for its tolerance in settling problems especially those involving relations with Malaysia.

He said many problems, especially those involving border areas, had been settled amicably with Thailand and cited the recent case of nine Malaysian farmers who were let off with small fines for encroachment on Thai territory.

"If Thailand can do that, so can Singapore," he told reporters after chairing the state executive council meeting, here.

He was commenting on ties between the two countries following Singapore's relocation of its Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) checkpoint from Tanjong Pagar to Woodlands on Aug 1 while Malaysia had refused to budge from its facilities on the Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd-owned land in Tanjong Pagar.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said the Singapore government should respect Malaysia's decision not to move its CIQ facilities from Tanjong Pagar if it had friendly intentions and wanted outsiders to respect its actions.

He said Malaysia-Singapore ties had existed for a long time but Singapore should ensure that its conduct did not upset others.

He said all problems should be settled through negotiation and cooperation and should not be allowed to reach a stage where they could incite hatred among the people.

In SEREMBAN, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said Singapore had not shown good neighbourliness in its actions.

"Singapore appears to be taking confrontational steps and sometimes we feel that the republic is too arrogant and that is not good. If the situation continues, it will not be good for ties between the two countries, he told reporters.

"As stated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, we don't want to quarrel with other nations. Our aim is to develop the country and the people, not look for problems," he said.

He believed that if Singapore took the cue from the prime minister, relations between the two countries would be good and their peoples would benefit from it.

-- BERNAMA

RP JK