

07 AUG 1998

Mahathir-Singapore

UMNO VOICES SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT'S STAND ON SINGAPORE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Umno has voiced support for the stand adopted by the government on all issues relating to Singapore, including the one concerning Malaysia's Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) checkpoint in the republic.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the support was pledged at the party's Supreme Council meeting here last night.

"We explained (at the meeting) the origins of the current row (between Malaysia and Singapore) and our attitude towards Singapore," he told a press conference later.

So far Umno had not taken any action with regard to the issue, said Dr Mahathir.

Replying to a question, Dr Mahathir said Umno had no plan to meet Singapore's ruling People's Action Party to discuss relations between the two countries.

Singapore moved its CIQ checkpoint from Tanjong Pagar to Woodlands on Aug 1 and asked Malaysia too to relocate its Tanjong Pagar checkpoint which is located on land belonging to KTM Bhd. Kuala Lumpur has, however, declined to shift.

As ties between the two countries came under a strain due to the checkpoint issue, Dr Mahathir earlier this week reminded the Singapore government not to take Malaysia's considerate nature for granted.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir said last night's meeting also discussed the country's economic problems especially "efforts to revive the economy and attempts by other people to undermine our efforts".

--BERNAMA

RAZ SK