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We support Dr M, says Karpal

PENANG, Wed. - DAP National deputy chairman Karpal Singh today voiced support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his stand on the Tanjong Pagar issue.

He said all Malaysians should support Dr Mahathir without reservation in his stand against the Singapore Government's directive that Malaysia relocate its Customs, Immigration and Quarantine checkpoint from Tanjong Pagar railway station to Woodlands.

"A country which depends on Malaysia even for a basic necessity like water should not ride roughshod on the sensitivities of the people in Malaysia.

"Singapore should not forget its origin. Historically, it has been a part of Malaysia.

"Politically, it gained its independence, particularly, owing to the humanity and good nature of the then Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman, who did so to avert racial confrontation which could then have been a perfect recipe for disaster," he said in a Press statement.

Karpal said Malaysia, in allowing Singapore to depart in 1965, had given up on a silver platter the jewel in its crown.

"Beyond that, the act of allowing Singapore's independence was tantamount to sowing a seed which, in hindsight, was only creating a source of constant, consistent and persistent trouble at our door step.

"The Tunku was wrong to have allowed the creation of Singapore as a republic. Recalcitrant People's Action Party leaders led by then Singapore Chief Minister Lee Kuan Yew in the Malaysian Parliament, could have been dealt with in other ways," he said.

Karpal said Singapore should not consider itself 'an Israel' which could flex its muscles against Malaysia in a display of arrogance and intimidation.

"Dr Mahathir is right when saying we should not be taken for granted by Singapore ... it is high time Malaysia puts its foot down. When enough is enough, the necessity to show Singapore we mean business must be addressed.

"Sabotaging a good neighbour through the media and making the directive in relation to the relocation of the CIQ checkpoint demonstrates the immaturity of the Singapore Government."

Karpal said the Malaysian Government could count on the sincere support of the DAP in its stand against Singapore.

He urged political parties on both sides of the divide to stand united against Singapore on the issue.

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