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Goh-Malaysia

S'PORE WAITING FOR MALAYSIA TO FIX DATE FOR PACKAGE TALKS

SINGAPORE, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong has said Singapore is waiting for Malaysia to fix an appropriate date to begin bilateral talks to resolve all outstanding issues between them in one package.

He said the move to hold the talks in one package had been agreed to by the leaders of both countries in December last year.

Dr Goh and Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to hold talks to resolve all issues in one package when they were in Hanoi for the Asean summit in December.

"Both sides have agreed to meet. We are now waiting for the date from Malaysia. This is a positive step," Goh told reporters at a Chinese New Year party at the Istana here yesterday.

According to a Singapore Berita Harian report, Goh also said relations between Singapore and Malaysia were now on a positive level.

Asked about details of Malaysia's reply to Singapore over the issue of the Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) check points at the Tanjong Pagar Railway Terminus, Goh said the details had already been released by the Singapore Foreign Ministry on Saturday.

The Singapore Foreign Ministry had said that Singapore was ready for talks to resolve all outstanding issues in one package following KL's explanation on the CIQ facilities dispute.

The Foreign Ministry had said it was satisfied with the explanation given by Malaysia on the dispute over KL's reluctance to relocate its CIQ facilities from Tanjong Pagar to Woodlands in the north of the island republic.

-- BERNAMA

MKO AAM