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Singapore-Malaysia

SINGAPORE MPs QUERY MALAYSIA'S CIQ ISSUE

By: Tham Choy Lin

SINGAPORE, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- Queries on Malaysia's customs and immigration facilities in Singapore will begin Wednesday's Parliament sitting here with two Members of Parliament seeking whether Malaysia had submitted its legal arguments for maintaining the facilities here.

According to the order paper for the session, another MP will ask Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong whether the proposal to review all outstanding bilateral issues with Malaysia including the overlapping claims on Pulau Batu Putih known as Pedra Branca in Singapore.

The immigration controversy is among several outstanding bilateral issues between Singapore and Malaysia.

Malaysian immigration officials continue to operate from the Tanjong Pagar railway station here after Singapore shifted its customs, immigration and quarantine facilities from the station to the northern Woodlands Checkpoint on Aug 1 last year.

Singapore sent Malaysia a diplomatic note after Malaysia did not submit the legal argument by Dec 15.

On Dec 17, Goh and his Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who met on the sidelines of the Asean Summit in Hanoi, agreed to discuss all outstanding issues including the CIQ matter as a package.

However, Goh said Malaysia still had to put up the legal arguments and Singapore would probably give Malaysia an extension of the deadline until the package was finalised.

The two countries had earlier decided to refer the overlapping claims on Pulau Batu Putih to the International Court of Justice in the Hague, Holland.

-- BERNAMA

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