

30/10/2000

Najib: Singapore is not potential enemy despite missiles purchase

PEKAN, Sun. - Malaysia does not see Singapore as its potential enemy just because the island-state had purchased some medium-range missiles.

However, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Singapore senior minister Lee Kuan Yew's statement on the purchase of the missiles could cause anger at the grassroots level.

"This is because the people at the grassroots level might have interpreted the statement as being arrogant and aimed at Malaysia.

"But as far as the Government is concerned, Lee's statement does not show that Singapore has the intention to create conflict with Malaysia," he said.

Najib added that the Malaysian Government had accepted the fact that Singapore had bought the missiles to beef up its defence system.

"We, the Malaysian Armed Forces are also into modernisation of our defence system and beefing up our weapons.

"I believe that Malaysia and Singapore both are aiming to have a good defence system.

"The missiles purchase by Singapore does not have to create fear. Similarly, the upgrading of weapons by the Malaysian Armed Forces does not have to instil fear nor provoke Singapore or any other countries," he said.

Najib added that Malaysia and Singapore were now in the midst of fostering closer ties especially in resolving problems which had been shelved all these while.

"The recent visit by Lee and his meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has also made the Cabinet to look into a few matters which can further strengthen the ties between the countries.

"I believe all the problems faced by both countries can be solved in a due time.

"Lee's recent meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has encouraged the Cabinet to look into ways to strengthen ties between the two countries," he said.

Najib told reporters this after officiating at the "Program Gerakan Desa Wawasan dan Kem Motivasi Belia" at Kampung Ubai, here, this morning.

Meanwhile, when touching on the current conflict between the Malays and immigrants from Madura in West Kalimantan in Indonesia, Najib said that the country's safety might be at risk.

"If there is any fighting at the Indonesia-Malaysia border which involves Malaysians, the country's safety can be seriously affected.

"Fortunately, to date, there have been no signs towards this but we must keep a close tab on this matter so as to ensure that the conflicts in Indonesia do not spread into our country," he said.

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