

PM: We can help Singapore out of any slowdown

LANGKAWI: Malaysia and Singapore need to resolve problems between the two countries as development could be affected if common issues are left unattended, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

The Prime Minister hoped to iron out such issues when he meets Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew who arrived in Kuala Lumpur yesterday for a four-day visit.

If Singapore's economy declined, Malaysia would offer its help to revive it as the republic was the country's main trading partner, Dr Mahathir told reporters at the end of a day-long tour of several ongoing projects here.

"Malaysia will not benefit if others (neighbouring nations) faced problems," he said.

Water supply to the republic was cited as one of the problems faced by Malaysia and Singapore.

Dr Mahathir also stated that Malaysia needed to build facilities, such as a tunnel for trains and a bridge to replace the causeway.

On issues on the home front, Dr Mahathir said Tabung Haji would, if necessary, dispose off properties which did not provide any returns.

He said the previous Tabung Haji investment panel bought too many properties, including those which did not bring any returns.

Dr Mahathir was confident that Kumpulan Amanah Capital Partners Bhd managing director Datuk Seri Syed Anwar Jamalullail, who had been appointed the new Tabung Haji investment panel chairman, would be able to steer the pilgrims' fund board in the right direction.

Syed Anwar, he pointed out, was a professional who knew about business, accounting and investment.