

'Only criminals extradited!

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We don't normally treat other cases in such a manner, says Mahathir

PUTRAJAYA, Wed: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia will wait for Singapore to charge a Malaysian arrested last month for alleged involvement in terrorism-related activities before seeking extradition.

"Extradition is usually sought for criminal cases. We don't seek extradition for other cases," he told

reporters after attending the Home Ministry's Hari Rava Open House celebration here today

On Monday, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin said that Malaysia may seek extradition for its citizen but this can only be done once the Singapore authorities have completed their investigations.

The Malaysian was arrested together with 14

other people, between Dec 9 and 24, under the republic's Internal Security Act.

Singapore's Home Affairs Ministry said 13 of them belong to a clandestine organisation calling itself Jemaah Islamiah.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Sved Hamid Albar said the Malaysian government must determine whether the person arrested has committed

any offence under Malaysian laws.

"I think we have to study what his activities were in this country.

"We have to see if his activities threatened our national security. But for now, it is all speculative," he told a press conference.

Asked if the Malaysian citizen will be extradited, Syed Hamid said: "Extradition comes with a set of procedures and laws

that can only be enacted in certain situations.

"This person was arrested in Singapore under their laws so we won't ask for extradition but we will ask for him to be brought back only if we think it is necessary," he said.

Syed Hamid also said the ministry will find out more of the situation in Singapore to inform his family of his condition.

On a separate matter, he declined to comment on wire reports that Nur Misuari's family wants to sue the Malaysian government for not sending him to a third country.

A former governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Misuari was sought by the Philippine government for rebellion, until he was deported home from Malaysia on Monday