

# Give and take

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## Singapore must be willing to compromise, says Mahathir

■ By SA'ODAH ELIAS  
and FARIDAH BEGUM

SHAH ALAM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that Malaysia is equally keen to resolve a host of outstanding bilateral issues with Singapore but the republic must be willing to compromise.

"We can resolve the issues, but there must be (some) give and take.

"But if we are expected to agree to other people's condition, then it will be difficult," he said in response to Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's statement on the same issue on Friday.

Goh had said that the republic

wanted the outstanding issues with Malaysia resolved so that the two countries could work together on issues affecting the region.

Speaking to reporters after attending the Workers Day rally at Stadium Malawati here, Dr Mahathir said the problems could only be resolved if Singapore was willing to concede on points where Malaysia was correct in its demand and had the rights.

"Where we are correct and had the rights, Singapore must accept," he said, adding that further discussions would be held with Singapore.

Asked whether there would be a meeting between him and Goh or

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'Singapore  
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must also  
provide  
us with  
reports'

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Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew to speed up the process, Dr Mahathir said there was no such need for now.

"For now, we want the officials to meet," he said.

On the issue of sea reclamation by Singapore off the Straits of Johor, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was still waiting for the republic to give a copy of the Environmental Impact Assessment report.

Singapore Foreign Minister S. Javakumar said on Friday that the republic had received the official protest note from Kuala Lumpur over the effect of the project on the environment on Tuesday.

However, Jeyakumar said the protest note lacked details.

Replying to that, Dr Mahathir said: "If it is details that they want, we can give them more details. At the same time, we also want to see what is the content of the report on their studies."

He said it was unfair for Singapore to expect only Malaysia to furnish details without it reciprocating by providing their own reports.

Asked whether Kuala Lumpur had received any official response from Singapore over the protest note, the Prime Minister said: "No response yet that I know of regarding the reclamation. We only know that they said that our protest is baseless.

"But on what basis do they use to reject our findings, I don't know."