

Goh will only consider price review as total package

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KUALA LUMPUR: Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong yesterday clarified the republic's stand on the price review of water.

In response to media queries after a dinner in Singapore on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad's comments on Friday, Goh said: "When I met him, I told him I was agreeable to a price revision of raw water under current water agreements as part of a total package."

"That has always been Singapore's approach, that

remains my approach. "In other words, I am agreeable to a price revision, negotiation, but as part of the package."

"However, since my return from Kuala Lumpur, I received a letter from Dr Mahathir on Oct 10. The letter

was dated Oct 7. In the letter, Dr Mahathir stated he would like to discontinue the package approach in these negotiations.

"So I'm studying the letter and am in the process of drafting him a reply."

The Singapore High

Commission here issued a transcript of Goh's response to the media yesterday.

On Friday, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would seek to backdate the price of water sold to Singapore when both countries finally come to terms on the new rates.

He said the Government was losing money and could not accept more delays.

"Once we fix the price (for raw water to be sold to Singapore), it must be backdated to the date when negotiations started," Dr Mahathir said.