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Mahathir-Singapore

S'PORE ALLOWED TO MAN LIGHTHOUSE ON PULAU PISANG

KUALA LUMPUR, April 14 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has given Singapore the right of passage to Pulau Pisang, Johor, to man a lighthouse there, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said it was difficult to say that Singapore had encroached into the area.

He said: "We do not know whether they have enroached or not because we have an arrangement for Singapore lighthouse staff to be on Pulau Pisang to man the lighthouse. And Singapore has opened a path for its use."

Although the island belonged to Malaysia, Singapore had the right of passage to man the lighthouse, he told reporters after attending a charity golf competition at the Glenmarie Golf and Country Club in Subang, near here.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked to comment on reports that Singaporeans were found to be moving freely on the island, located off Pontian, Johor.

The event was to raise money for the welfare and education funds of Yayasan Pembangunan Masyarakat Kubang Pasu and Yayasan Bestari Kuala Langat.

Asked on a website poll conducted by PAS' official organ Harakah on the likely successor to the Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir said: "Why should we be bothered with Harakah?"

He said that was a tactic by PAS to split Umno.

Harakah claims that according to its poll, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi lies third behind Umno vice-presidents Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Earlier, in his speech, Dr Mahathir said the rapid developments in information technology required the people to keep abreast of the knowledge in this field.

Previously, only the illiterate needed to strive to make themselves literate but now everyone had to constantly deepen their knowledge in computer science, he said.

Although the government provided computer facilities in schools, public help was needed to expose adults and those outside the school fraternity to IT, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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