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Mahathir-Singapore

DR MAHATHIR SAYS THERE'S BASIS TO MALAYSIA'S OBJECTION

KOTA BAHARU, April 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has maintained that there is basis to Malaysia's objection to the land reclamation project carried out by Singapore off Johore.

He said Malaysia would continue to insist that there is basis to its objection contrary to Singapore's claim.

"If Singapore says it is baseless then it has to show to us how it is baseless. We feel that there is basis," he told reporters during his one-day visit to Kelantan, here today.

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in a TV telecast in the island republic last Wednesday reminded Malaysia to submit a protest note on the reclamation project.

Singapore is also of the views that there is no basis to Malaysia's objection while its parliament feels that the republic is not obliged to consult Malaysia on the project which is within its waters.

On the report that Singapore had given its reply on resolving all outstanding bilateral issues as a package, Dr Mahathir said there was no reply as yet.

"What I received was only a letter from Lee Kuan Yew (Singapore Senior Minister), saying that my letter contains something new and that he has to study our proposals," he said.

The Prime Minister said that Singapore had yet to respond to Malaysia's proposals.

"We come up with other proposals, and we want their response. We have yet to get their response," he said.

Asked on whether Malaysia would produce its own weapons to meet its defence needs, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was now capable of producing several light weapons such as rifles for its needs.

He said Malaysia could also build light plane and was slowly acquiring knowledge and expertise in other areas.

Earlier in a meeting with federal government officers here, Dr Mahathir said the government was enhancing the country's defence capabilities through purchases of modern weapons and tanks from several countries.

"We are buying weapons only for our defence. Those who want to attack us, we promise we'll give them a bloody nose," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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