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NGOs-Singapore

MALAYSIAN NGOS SUBMIT PROTEST MEMO TO SINGAPORE

KUALA LUMPUR, April 8 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian People's Action Front (MPAF) which represents 58 youth and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) today handed over a memorandum to Singapore protesting its land reclamation in the Tebrau Straits separating the two countries.

The memorandum was handed to First Secretary of the Singapore High Commission here Mark Neo by five MPAF members led by its chairman, Datuk Suhaimi Ibrahim.

Suhaimi said the memorandum, among other things, called on Singapore to discuss the matter with Malaysia within two weeks.

It expressed their regret that the republic had not considered the views of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, other leaders and the people of Malaysia on the matter.

"If Singapore still adopts such an attitude, we will ask the Malaysian government to review its bilateral relations and cooperation with the republic in the economic, educational, political and social fields," he said.

The MPAF also called on Malaysia not to renew Singapore's water supply contract and to be firm in controlling the export of sand and earth to the republic," he said said outside the Singapore High Commissioner's office in Jalan Tun Razak, here.

He said the front also urged the government to step up facilities at the Tanjung Pelepas and Pasir Gudang ports as well as inland port facilities and to continue with the plan to cut a canal across the Ithmus of Kra with the Thai government.

He also urged Malaysians not to depend on services and supplies from Singapore and not to put their money in Singapore banks.

Singapore Development Minister Mah Bow Tan told the Singapore parliament recently that the reclamation work would continue despite protests from various parties in Malaysia because of the pressing need for land.

Singapore's reclamation activities in Pulau Tekong and Tuas had raised environmental concerns as well as concerns that it might narrow the shipping lanes and have a negative impact on the Pasir Gudang and Tanjung Pelepas ports.

-- BERNAMA

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