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Mahathir-Singapore

M'SIA WAITS FOR TRIBUNAL DECISION ON JOHOR STRAITS LAND RECLAMATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will wait for the decision of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany concerning its protest over land reclamation works by Singapore at the Johor Straits before taking further action, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said it should be left to the court make the final decision on the matter.

He said this when asked to comment on the continuation of land reclamation works by Singapore at the Johor Straits despite the fact that the case was being referred to the tribunal.

ITLOS is expected to make a judgement on the case on Oct 8 after Singapore and Malaysia had presented their cases with regard to the land reclamation.

Asked whether Singapore's move was subjudicial, he said: "They (Singapore) do not understand all this."

"Our country is being led by a doctor and theirs (is led by) a lawyer," he replied cynically when asked by reporters after launching and watching the F1 Power Boat Malaysian Grand Prix at the Mines Resort City, Seri Kembangan here.

When asked on the proposal to use microchips on cheques to prevent frauds, he said its effectiveness must first be studied.

"Our people are clever at cheating. They have nothing else to do," he said referring to the frauds involving the cheques of two state governments exposed last week.

Touching on Malaysia's achievement in holding world class grand prix such as the F1 Power Boat Race, Dr Mahathir said they not only succeeded in attracting more international participants to compete in this country, but also attracted world audience.

For example, the third edition of the F1 Power Boat Race had attracted more participants and spectators from abroad compared with the previous editions.

"If the candidates cannot do so, they are advised to go to the nearest examination centre to sit for the examination," he said.

Candidates who are sheltered at flood relief centres would be taken to their examination centres by the State Flood Relief Committees, he added.

He said the direct telecast of the event to 60 countries today gave a clear picture to the world community that Malaysia was a safe and peaceful country, without any problem.

In addition, it also refuted the claims that Malaysia was a dangerous country, he said.

The Prime Minister was confident that the government would continue to promote international class sports activities even after his retirement.

On the achievement of Malaysians in sports at the international level, Dr Mahathir said: "It's improving. We can't become champions in just one attempt."

He said continued efforts must be taken to ensure that the performance of national athletes improved to achieve success.

-- BERNAMA

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