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S'PORE MUST STOP RECLAMATION WORK, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Singapore must stop any land reclamation work in the Straits of Johor as it will further damage the environment.

Commenting on the decision of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on the dispute, Dr Mahathir said: "(What is) most important is whether they will agree that Singapore should stop work now pending the panel's final decision.

"If they continue with their work it will be too late. By the time we have a final decision, the reclamation will have done permanent damage.

"What we want is for them to stop the work now, that's all and we will go for final arbitration," he told reporters after returning from the two-day ninth Asean Summit in Bali, Indonesia at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang tonight.

Malaysia has been granted provisional measures in the case concerning Singapore's land reclamation projects in the Straits of Johor.

The Hamburg-based Court unanimously ordered Singapore "not to conduct its land reclamation in ways that might cause irreparable prejudice to the rights of Malaysia or serious harm to the marine environment, taking especially into account the reports of the group of independent experts."

Malaysia had filed for a stop-work-order of the island republic land reclamation work to the ITLOS on July 4.

-- BERNAMA

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