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We need to get tough with Singapore

SINCE soon after the formation of Malaysia in the early 1960s along with Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore joining the group, there have been nothing but endless troubles and heartache all the way, particularly from Singapore.

Our Bapa Malaysia Tengku Abdul Rahman saw the difficulties that lay ahead as there was not going to be much of a future in the "marriage" with

Singapore and he wisely decided on a quick "divorce" so that Singapore would be free to lead its own life and follow its own destiny.

Right from day one after the "divorce", we expected to maintain some kind of harmony or tolerance with Singapore as a neighbour but unfortunately that dream has never materialised and Singapore sticks out like a sore thumb as it is very aggressive, unruly and difficult to get along with and is regarded by most Malaysians as a thorn in the flesh.

Soon after that, more problems began to crop up, with Malaysia at its wit's end to control its mental sanity in trying to avoid an open confrontation with Singapore.

The problems are endless with the major ones being the Tanjong Pagar dispute, the Johor water supply crisis, Singapore military exercises close

to the Malaysian fishing grounds, intrusion of Malaysian air space and territorial waters by Singapore air force and navy and the Singapore land reclamation project.

Now comes the latest and most sensational incident that took place on Christmas Day when a Singaporean Navy vessel chased away a Malaysian patrol boat filled with journalists in the waters near Pulau Batu Puteh.

Singapore behaves as if it owns the island when it has yet to refer the matter to the ICJ or come up with the proper documentation to support its claim.

Malaysia has all along been behaving like a good big brother to Singapore.

Singapore is behaving like a delinquent and a spoilt brat and really believes that despite its size, it is capable of taking on anybody that comes in its way. I think it is about time Malaysia came forward and taught Singapore some good manners.

I was glad when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced (NST, Dec 26) that Malaysia was no longer interested in engaging in further discussions with Singapore on the supply of water as there had been no progress in the meetings so far.

More discussions will just be a waste of time and now Singapore has the cheek to tell us that it is seeking legal action to settle the water dispute with Malaysia.

I would suggest Malaysia cut off the water supply to Singapore for a start and, once stopped, perhaps the Singapore people will be interested in their own health for a change and leave us alone and in peace for a