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Najib: Singapore should reciprocate

A. Hafiz Yatim

ALOR GAJAH, Sun. - Malaysia remains hopeful that the water price issue with Singapore will be resolved following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's goodwill gesture of assuring the republic that water will continue to be supplied to the island.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Malaysia hoped this would help settle the water issue once and for all, and that Singapore should reciprocate the goodwill gesture by offering an appropriate price.

He said this after opening the Selandar Umno divisional cluster meeting held at the A' Famosa resort here.

Present were Selandar Umno division chief Datuk Hamdin Abdollah and Pulau Sebang Assemblyman Abdul Aziz Isa.

Najib was asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's statement on Friday that Malaysia would supply treated water to Singapore until khiamat (the end of time).

Najib, who is also Defence Minister, hoped that Singapore would offer a proper price to Malaysia as the current rate was "ridiculous".

On Umno membership, Najib, who chairs the party's membership bureau, said he still received reports that certain branches were preventing some people from becoming members.

"Our intention is to make Umno an institution of the country, and efforts to limit membership would certainly hamper our efforts."