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Singaporeans are always welcome, says Ghani

JOHOR BARU, Wed. - Johor will always welcome Singaporeans visiting the State and the rest of this country despite the disparaging remarks about Malaysia still being made by leaders of the republic, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said today.

He said any "right thinking" Singaporean would understand that Malaysia was sincere in wanting to maintain good ties with the republic.

This, he added, was evident in the guarantee given by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Malaysia would supply water to the republic "until the end of time".

Dr Mahathir had on Friday, while officiating at the ground-breaking ceremony of the Gerbang Selatan Bersepadu (Southern Integrated Gateway) project, pledged that he and future Malaysian Prime Ministers would ensure Singapore would get its supply of water from this country.

"That statement (by Dr Mahathir) will be recorded in history.

"It is a strong message for ordinary Singaporeans that they and succeeding generations can be assured of getting their water supply from us," said Ghani after chairing the State Executive Council meeting at Bukit Timbalan. "As for all those disparaging remarks ...I do not think we should react to them."