

Singapore's interest in Iskandar to be main topic

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LANGKAWI: While the topics may be wide-ranging, the one on Singapore's investments in the Iskandar Development Region in Johor is expected to be the main issue of discussion between Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his Singapore counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong, today.

The two prime ministers will, at their breakfast meeting, discuss the issue privately, without the presence of note-takers.

"They will not be governed by the intricacies of officialdom. They are free to discuss any subject," said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar.

He said Malaysia's commitment to Iskandar and Singapore's keen interest to invest in the area would be the topic of interest for the leaders.

About 30 people on both sides accompanied the two leaders here. Among them are Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Azalina Othman Said.

Syed Hamid said the Singapore delegation had expressed keen interest in an informal meeting.

"We want to take advantage of the friendly and cordial environment established between our countries. On our part, we are interested to look at the outstanding issues between the countries. But as it would be an informal discussion, the meetings are not intended to go into a specific area with a



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (right) will have a private breakfast meeting in Langkawi today. — Reuters picture

specific decision."

Outstanding issues include the price of raw water sold to the republic, the development of Kertapi Tanah Melayu Bhd land in Singapore, use of Malaysia's airspace by the republic's air

force and a new bridge to replace the Johor Causeway.

Last night, the delegations met for dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel in Tanjung Rhu.

After the breakfast meeting, Abdullah and Lee will join minis-

ters and officials for a meeting on-board Star Cruises' *MegaStar Aries*. They are expected to conclude the meeting this afternoon.

Lee and his delegation are to depart from Langkawi in the evening.