

PM: No word yet from India over boycott claims

PUTRAJAYA has not received any feedback from the Indian government despite demands by its nationals to boycott Malaysia over the country's calls for an amicable solution to resolve the conflict over Jammu and Kashmir.

"I haven't gotten any feedback. I have told Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he can contact me directly if India has any uneasy feelings.

"So far, there has been no feedback from them," Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad told reporters in the Parliament lobby.

On Sept 27, the Prime Minister said in a speech at the United

Nations General Assembly that India and Pakistan should work together to resolve the conflict.

Describing his remarks as impartial, Dr Mahathir said he only wanted both parties to negotiate between themselves and avoid violence.

"It is our policy not to resort to violence but to resolve issues through negotiations, arbitration or through a court of law," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he had also brought up this issue with Modi when they met in Vladivostok, Russia, during the Eastern Economic Forum last month.

"My speech (at the UN general assembly) is a follow-up whereupon

we don't want to see any violence or dispute between the nations.

"That's all we said. But, it's true that there are people who are unhappy with the mild criticisms of India."

Social media users have accused Dr Mahathir of publicly siding with Pakistan against India in the ongoing dispute over the region and are calling for a boycott of Malaysian tourism, products and services, including airlines.

In the Dewan Rakyat, Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah said based on observation, the boycott trend had decreased over the days.

"I can confidently say that it does not affect Malaysia's standing on the international arena as well as bilateral ties between India and Malaysia," he said in reply to Fahmi Fadzil (PH-Lembah Pantai).

Malaysia's foreign policy, he said, was based on the principle of neutrality and a willingness to trade with all countries except Israel.

He said however while Malaysia would not get involved in a country's internal affairs, there were some instances where a stand needed to be made, pointing out that it was vocal and proactive on the Rohingya issue as well as with Kashmir.