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RULERS' DECLARATION CLEARS DOUBTS , SAYS MAHATHIR

Parliament - Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Proclamation of Constitutional Principles is important because there are groups which interpret provisions of the Federal Constitution for their political interests.

The Prime Minister said the groups, such as members of opposition political parties, made their own interpretation of the provisions in the constitution until what is clear became confused.

They concentrate on their political interests, and that is why the proclamation is necessary to clarify the situation, he said when replying to Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong) in the Dewan Rakyat.

Tan had asked whether it was true that the proclamation was 100 per cent different from the provisions pertaining to the Malay Rulers contained in the Federal Constitution.

Replying to another question from Tan, Dr Mahathir said it was not necessary for him to state which Ruler had yet to give his approval for the proclamation. -- more

▼22/07/16-50MST

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He said that in general all the Malay Rulers gave their approval.

To a question from Hajah Ilani Ishak (S46-Kota Baharu) whether many of the Malay Rulers had not endorsed their approval in the preamble to the proclamation, Dr Mahathir said that this was untrue.

That is only the view of opposition political parties, he said.

Replying to a question from Wan Mohd Jamin Mahmood (PAS-Tumpat), he said efforts were being made to reach a consensus with the Malay Rulers who had not given their approval to the proclamation.

Asked by Haji Ibrahim Ali (BN-Pasir Mas) whether there were groups which attempted to use the proclamation to confuse the situation and whether it was true that in general, the Malay Rulers were happy with the proclamation because it consolidated their sovereignty, Dr Mahathir replied: True, it is disappointing and true, the majority approve. -- more

▼22/07/17-19MST

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Replying to the original question, from Encik Foh Kui Lan (DAP-Klang), Dr Mahathir said it was not necessary for him to state the reaction of the Malay Rulers towards the proclamation because it would only be his assessment.

The assessment by others may differ. The important thing, is that the proclamation has been made, he said.

The Prime Minister declined to give details of the proclamation, saying that these had been published by the mass media and I do not intend to repeat them. -- Bernama

▼22/07/17-28MST