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(12)

NO NEED FOR REFERENDUM, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir - Referendum

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1.3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today a referendum need not be held to review the 'powers of ~~the Sabah~~ and Sarawak Governments as 'this can lead to a' tense atmosphere in the country.

He said the Sabah Government was deliberately raising the issue of referendum to create hatred among the Sabah people for the Federal Government.

+If we allow Sabah to hold a referendum whenever a review was to be made other states will also demand that a referendum be held and in 'the end this country will be in chaos as being experienced in Yugoslavia at present.,+ he told reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport before leaving for Hong Xong .

+In fact, -the Sabah Government led by Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan is trying to isolate Sabah,+ Dr Mahathir added.

+When we (Fed&al. Government) say something about the state, they (Sabah Government)accuseus of trying to separate the state but in fact it is they who are trying to do that,+ he said. -- more

♥13/10/13-03MST

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Mahathir-referendum 2 Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister had said last Saturday that ^{the} powers of the Sabah and Sarawak Governments should be reviewed as a review had not been made so far.

In fact such a review should be done every 10 years with a view to integrating Sa bah and Sarawak with Peninsular Malaysia, he had said.

Former Sabah Chief Minister Tun Datu Haji Mustapha bin Datu Harun, who was also at the airport to see off the Prime Minister, said the time had come for a review of such powers and it need not necessarily be through a referendum.

+The review could be made through discussions,between the leaders of the states -and the Federal Government,+ he said.

+The review is for a good' aim.. for the unity of the people and national integration and prevent dictatorship,+ he said

Datu Mustapha said: +Pairinwants a referendum because he wants to champion the concept of Sabah for Sabahans and Malaysia for Malaysians.+

On the statement by Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Jaffar Hussein that Malaysian graduates 'lacked fluency in the English Language, Dr Mahathir said stress on. this second language was important. -- more

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Mahathir - Referendum 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister said English was important in the world of business and it should be mastered.

+In fact English is not hard to learn, we only need to read a lot of books written in English,+ he said.

On his 10-day visit to Hong Kong and Japan, he said he would address the Hong Foreign Correspondents Club and attend the East Asia/Europe Economic forum at which he would touch on the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC).

During his -unofficial visit to Japan, he would discuss investment with Japanese industrialists and tour industrial projects in that country.

Dr Mahathir would also meet his Japanese counterpart Kiichi Miyazawa and former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. -- Bernama

13/10/13-47MST,