

CNS3289

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Mahathir-Sabah
UMNO HAS' RIGHT TO ASK FOR REVIEW OF 20-POINT AGREEMENT, SAYS MAHATHIR.
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KUALA LANGAT, Nov 12, 1992 (Bernama) -- The people in the country have the right to discuss and ask for a review of the 20-point agreement on the formation of the federation of Malaysia, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the right to review the agreement did not lie solely with the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) or the Sabah people.

+Actually, once we are united it is no longer a Sabah matter ...so the people in the country are entitled to take part.

+If we want to have a referendum, it should be held throughout Malaysia, and not just hold one for PBS only,+ he told reporters 'after officially opening the first phase and simultaneously launching the second phase of the Genting Sanyen (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd paper mill complex here.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, who is PBS President, yesterday said that only the people of Sabah could 'review the 20-point agreement and he questioned Umno's intention to hold a debate on the matter with PBS. -- more

♥12/11/19-26MST

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Mahathir-Sabah 2 Kuala Langat

+There are Umno members in Sabah and they are also Sabah people. Why should it be that PBS alone can review it while Umno has no right?+ said Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President.

Umno Deputy President Ghafar Baba, in his winding up speech at the Umno General Assembly last Sunday, said Umno was prepared to debate with PBS the 20-point agreement since it had used the issue to whip up anti-federal sentiments among the people of Sabah.

Dr Mahathir said Pairin did not want the issue to be 'settled because +so long as the issue is there, he can use it for his party's interests.+

+What he fears is that if we expose what has been agreed upon in the agreement, then he cannot use it to incite the people,+ he added.

He said: +We did not want to debate the matter but he is the one who started it. going sound telling villagers. about the 20-point agreement 'issue.+ -- more

♥12/11/19-32MST

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Mahathir-Sabah 3 Kuala Langat

The 20-point agreement, contained in the Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) Report, formed the basis of Sabah and Sarawak's joining Malaya to form Malaysia in 1963.

The Prime Minister said according to the agreement, 'a review of the conditions of the merger, which accorded Sabah and Sarawak certain rights, could be made after 10 years.

'In the beginning we could consider (the privileges) but it has been more than 25 years and we are still facing this problem,' he said, adding that a federation should not have differences between the states.

He said PBS was using the issue to allege that the federal government was oppressing Sabah when, in fact, the conditions for Sabah and Sarawak were better than those for the other states' participation in the federation.

Dr Mahathir said the federal government would review the agreement in accordance with the provisions of the agreement. -- more

▼12/11/20-01MST

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Mahathir-Sabah 4 (last:) Kuala Langat

On what could come, under focus in the review, he said: 'Their restriction on the movement of people to Sabah and many other, conditions as have been mentioned by Bncik Ghafar.'

On Pairin's statement that the 20-point agreement should be a matter between the state and federal governments, and not political parties, he said: 'There is no need for the state and federal governments to debate ... suffice for us to settle the matter.'

The Prime Minister said the Sabah government not only did not want to review the agreement but it wanted to change things which had been agreed upon by the previous state government.

He cited as an example the case of Islam which had been made the state's official religion by the Usno government.

'They (PBS) wish to give the impression that we want to force everybody to embrace Islam when we have no such intention,' he added. -- Bernama

▼12/11/20-17MST