Mahathir - Raja
RAJA-RAJA MINTA SEHINGGA 16 JAN SEBELUM BUAT PENDIRIAN

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 Jan (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad berkata raja-raja telah menyatakan sikap ragu-ragu terhadap cadangan pindaan Perlembagaan bagi melucutkan kekebalan mereka di sisi undang-undang dan meminta sehingga Persidangan Majlis Raja-raja pada 16 Jan ini untuk membuat pendirian.

Perdana Menteri, yang mengetuai rombongan pemimpin tertinggi UMNO untuk pertemuan tidak rasmi dengan Raja-raja di Istana Negara hari ini, berkata tiada keputusan muktamad dicapai pada pertemuan itu.

+Setakat ini tidak ada ya ataupun tidak dinyatakan,+ katanya pada persidangan akhbar di Jabatan Perdana Menteri sebaik saja pertemuan itu tamat.

Dr Mahathir yang juga Presiden UMNO berkata : +Perbincangan ini tidak conclusive (muktamad), tetapi ini tidak bermakna pindaan ini ditolak ataupun diterima.+ -- Lagi

♥09/01/18-12MST

CNS3705
U GB 09-01   00138 BA146
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Mahathir - Raja 2 Kuala Lumpur

Menjawab soalan, Perdana Menteri berkata ada di kalangan raja yang bertanya kenapa pindaan itu perlu dan beliau menjelaskan secara terperinci rasional cadangan kerajaan itu.

Semua Raja, kecuali Sultan Kelantan, hadir pada pertemuan yang berlangsung hampir dua jam.

Rombongan UMNO itu turut disertai oleh timbalan presiden parti, Encik Ghafar Baba dan semua naib presiden iaitu Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid serta Ketua Pemuda, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak dan Ketua Wanita, Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

Menurut Dr Mahathir, mesyuarat itu dimulakan dengan penjelasan daripada rombongan UMNO tentang pindaan yang dicadangkan.

+Selepas itu perbincangan diadakan dan akhirnya pihak raja-raja meminta supaya mereka diberi masa sehingga 16 Jan untuk membuat pendirian,+ kata beliau. -- Lagi

♥09/01/18-23MST

CNS3716
U GB 09-01   00090 BA151
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Mahathir - Raja 3 Kuala Lumpur

Menjawab soalan, Dr Mahathir berkata UMNO sememangnya tidak menjangka usahanya itu akan melalui jalan mudah.

Katanya : +Saya tak fikir perkara ini semudah yang difikirkan...kita pergi ke istana dan persetujuan terus dicapai.+

Bagaimanapun, kata Perdana Menteri, beliau bersikap +realistik+ mengenai perkara itu.

Katanya, perbincangan berjalan secara berterus terang.

+Kita jelas betul-betul tujuan cadangan ini dan pihak raja membuat teguran ataupun pandangan yang berasas pada tanggapan mereka terhadap pindaan.+ katanya. -- Lagi

CNS3711
U GE 09-01 00144 EA290
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Rulers-delegation
RULERS TO WAIT UNTIL JAN 16 TO DECIDE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Malay Rulers have expressed reservation about the proposed constitutional amendments to remove their immunity and they wanted to wait until the Jan 16 Conference of Rulers meeting to make a stand on the matter.

The Umno president, who led a senior Umno delegation to an informal meeting with the Rulers today, said nothing conclusive came out of the meeting at Istana Negara here.

+They did not say yes or no,+ he told a press conference at the Prime Minister's Department after the meeting.

Dr Mahathir said: +The discussion was inconclusive but it did not mean the amendments were rejected or otherwise.+ -- more

♥09/01/18-29MST
aae tbe
Rulers-delegation 2 Kuala Lumpur

To a question, the Prime Minister said some among the Rulers expressed their reservation about the proposal.

He said they wanted to know the need for the amendments and he explained in detail the rationale behind the government's move to amend the constitution.

All Rulers except the Sultan of Kelantan attended the meeting which lasted almost two hours.

The Umno delegation included deputy president Ghafar Baba, vice-presidents Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Youth chief Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Wanita chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting started off with the Umno delegation explaining the proposed amendments.

+This was followed by a discussion and the Rulers finally asked to be given until Jan 16 to make a stand,+ he said. -- more

♥09/01/18-42MST

aae tbe
Rulers-delegation 3 Kuala Lumpur

To another question, Dr Mahathir said Umno did not expect a smooth path in its efforts.
He said: +I do not think this matter is as simple as it is thought...we go to the palace and immediately reach agreement.+
Dr Mahathir said he was being realistic on the matter.
+I think the discussion was very frank. We were very frank and so were the Rulers. There was no holding back.
+We explained carefully the purpose of the amendments and the Rulers gave their comment or views based on their perception of the amendments,+ he said. -- more

♥09/01/18-57MST
aae tbe
Rulers-delegation 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Asked on the Rulers' perception of the amendments, he said: +This is not their proposal so they wish to know why the amendments need to be made.+
+To my mind, in the view of the Rulers who did not initiate the proposal, maybe they would rather not have the amendments,+ he added.
On the possibility of Umno and the Rulers working out a compromise, Dr Mahathir said: +Let's wait for Jan 16.+
+Umno's stand is that we have studied the amendments very carefully. We feel that the amendments are appropriate,+ he said.
The amendments will be tabled at a special sitting of the Dewan Rakyat on Jan 18 and 19 and at the Dewan Negara on Jan 20.
Dr Mahathir also said he did not know why the Sultan of Kelantan did not attend the meeting, adding that this question should be directed to the Sultan.
The Sultan of Kelantan had earlier attended an informal meeting of the Rulers at Istana Negara this morning. -- Bernama

♥09/01/19-25MST