

CNS4139

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Mahathir-redelineation

CANCELLATION OF REDELINEATION EXERCISE A LOSS OF PUBLIC FUNDS, SAYS

MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the cancellation of the exercise to redelineate the country's electoral constituencies due to a "technical mistake" is a loss of public funds.

"What can we do ... mistakes sometimes happen in the administration of countries and this is a loss of public funds," he said at a press conference at the airport here on his return from his visits to Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The Prime Minister said that the redelineation exercise should be conducted carefully as it involved procedures and laws.

The Election Commission announced two days ago the revocation of notices dated Nov 26, last year, pertaining to the redelineation of constituencies for Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah.

The notices were revoked when the Election Commission realised there was a "technical mistake" in the implementation of the Constitutional amendment. -- more

18/02/13-42MST

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Mahathir-redelineation 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said that the technical mistake had disrupted not only efforts like the redelineation exercise but also other matters.

"Our country is too tied up with rules and regulations so much so that matters which clearly only involve technicalities will cause us to be unable to implement certain things.

"I am not suggesting that we ignore rules and regulations but in matters such as this, we should be careful about matters relating to rules and regulations.

"We should also accept that when something happens only due to technicalities, we have some flexibility on the matter ... but this is not for me to decide," he said.

When asked to elaborate what he meant by flexibility, Dr Mahathir said: "Sometimes a person makes a mistake in writing the date or sometimes the paper submitted is one without a signature ... although there is one with a signature, the one selected is without a signature." -- more

♥18/02/14-08MST

CNS4175

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Mahathir-redelineation 3 Kuala Lumpur

Commenting on DAP Secretary-General Lim Kit Siang's challenge to the Election Commission chairman, Datuk Harun Din, to resign, Dr Mahathir said that the opposition leader should be the one to resign as DAP Secretary-General.

"I challenge Encik Lim Kit Siang to resign as secretary-general and assume the post of chairman of his party ... it looks like the secretary is more powerful than the chairman ... this is rather strange," he said.

Asked whether the cancellation of the redelineation exercise affected any plans for an election, Dr Mahathir said that he did not see this problem arising.

He said that if an election were to be held now, the existing electoral boundaries could be used. -- more

♥18/02/14-20MST

CNS4185

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Mahathir-redelineation 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

"I don't see any problems if we were to hold an election ... Kit Siang will still lose.

"He will go on losing eventhough there are additional constituencies or if the number of constituencies is reduced," he said.

The Election Commission proposed 12 new Parliamentary constituencies from the 180 existing constituencies in the redelineation exercise to be conducted after a period of eight years.

Yesterday, Law Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said that the Attorney-General's Chambers would amend Section 3 of the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1992 to enable the Election Commission to resume the redelineation exercise for Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah.

The exercise is expected to be resumed after the April Parliamentary sitting which will discuss the amendment. -- Bernama

▼18/02/14-32MST