

CNS0535

R GE 10-04 00187 EA232

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Mahathir-Kelantan

IBRAHIM PETRA HAS RIGHT TO CLAIM KELANTAN THRONE, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 10 (Bernama)-- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Tengku Datuk Ibrahim Petra has the right to lay claim to the Kelantan throne.

The Prime Minister added, however, that the claim would have to be made in accordance with the practices in the country, including the legal channel.

"That is his right... but the claim must be made through channels accepted and practised in this country, including the legal channel," he told reporters on his return from Jeddah today after an eight-day visit to Uzbekistan and Iran.

Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali made a stop-over in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday to perform the Umrah.

He did not rule out the possibility that the claim would be submitted to the Special Court set up with the consent of the Malay Rulers following the constitutional amendment to limit the legal immunity of the Rulers early last month. -- more

JO OS LDB

▼10/04/11-17MST

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Mahathir-Kelantan 2 Kuala Lumpur

He said the Special Court could be one of the channels through which Tengku Datuk Ibrahim could make the claim.

Tengku Ibrahim, the executive chairman of Petra Finance Bhd., announced here on Thursday he had decided to pursue all legal avenues to claim what he said was his rightful place on the Kelantan throne.

He is the cousin of the present Sultan.

Asked about the cancellation of the people's gathering scheduled for today in Kota Baharu, Kelantan, because of police objection, Dr Mahathir said it was up to the authorities to make an assessment of any application.

He added: "If the responsible officer feels that it poses a threat to peace and security, it is up to him to make a decision.

"I don't interfere in this... I was not even in the country."

He had been out of the country and only heard about the matter this morning, he said.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Hanif Omar said last night that the Kota Baharu OCPD Acting ACP Mohamed Yunus Othman rejected the Persatuan Penyelia Pembangunan Mukim (PPM) application for a permit yesterday on security grounds. -- more

JO OS LDB

▼10/04/11-41MST
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Mahathir-Kelantan 3 Kuala Lumpur

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob, who was present at the airport, said the decision made by the Kelantan police was a professional one based on their assessment of the situation.

According to the feedback received from Hanif, the application was rejected because the prevailing situation did not warrant such a gathering and "we (the government) have nothing to do with the decision," he added.

"We accept the decision made by the police," he said.

Megat Junid said police made the decision after studying all angles and possibilities.

On the possibility of Parti Semangat 46 being deregistered by the Registrar of Societies for using Umno in its name, Megat Junid said so far he had not received any feedback on the matter. -- more

JO OS LDB

▼10/04/12-09MST

CNS0566

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Mahathir-Kelantan 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

The matter came under the jurisdiction of the Registrar of Societies Puan Zakiah Hashim and she should be given the opportunity to make her own decision.

In the show-cause letter to Semangat 46, Zakiah said she would make a decision on the matter on April 9 (yesterday).

Dr Mahathir, who was asked about his visits to Uzbekistan and Iran, said they had succeeded in enhancing relations with the two countries and generating greater understanding on bilateral and international matters.

"Generally, both the visits have succeeded in achieving their objectives," he added.

For example, he said, Malaysia was now able to identify goods that could be imported from the two countries and the means of transportation.

Several trade agreements had been signed with Uzbekistan and Iran.

Present at the airport to welcome him home was Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba. -- Bernama

JO OS LDB