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Umno-Sultan

UMNO SUPPORTS PEOPLE'S CALL TO SULTAN TO BE APOLITICAL

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 12 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council today came out in support of the people of Kelantan's stand protesting against the Sultan of Kelantan's interference in politics and state administration.

Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the demonstration staged in Kota Baharu last Saturday reflected the stand of a major portion of the Kelantan people who had lost faith in the Sultan (Tengku Ismail Petra) as the Ruler.

"Umno feels that a Sultan who is not recognised by the people has lost his dignity as a Ruler," the Prime Minister told a press conference after chairing an Umno Supreme Council meeting which lasted almost three hours at the party headquarters here.

He regretted that the Kelantan palace had refused to accept a memorandum from a representative of the group which staged the people's rally.

This showed the Sultan's undemocratic attitude as he wanted to be involved in politics and yet did not want to accept the people's appeal, he added. -- more

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♥12/04/21-30MST

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"This is why we do not accept the Rulers' role (in politics) because Rulers are undemocratic and the world only recognises the system of government as democratic," he said.

Dr Mahathir disagreed with the views of some people that Umno's move would drive a wedge between the administration and Rulers, saying "we remain close as usual".

He dismissed allegations that he wanted to topple the Kelantan government following the gathering in Kota Baharu, as a foreign news agency had quoted Kelantan Menteri Besar Nik Aziz Nik Mat as saying.

"If I want to topple it (the state government), there are many other ways.. there is no need to hold a gathering. We can dry up the funds.

"There are many more means that we can resort to but did not. This is a small matter. What we are embarrassed about is that this Ruler has brought a bad image to the system of Rulers," he said. -- more

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On DAP Deputy Chairman Karpal Singh's statement that the issue of Tengku Datuk Ibrahim Petra Tengku Indra Petra's claim to the Kelantan throne cannot be brought before the Special Court, the Prime Minister said this was just the view of the MP for Jelutong who happened to be a lawyer.

In this matter, the lawyers themselves had differing views, he said.

Dr Mahathir said Umno was still studying the status of the Portugese community to determine if they qualify as Bumiputeras to be able to join Umno.

The meeting also decided that Umno divisions could receive the subscription fees of members which branches had refused to accept. --

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