

10 AUG 1996

Resolution-Interpretation

LANGKAWI UMNO SAYS RESOLUTION ON DUTY-FREE STATUS MISCONSTRUED

LANGKAWI, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- The Langkawi Umno division today claimed its resolution calling for a review of the duty-free status of the resort island has been misconstrued.

Divisional leader Datuk Abu Bakar Taib said it was never the intention of the division to urge the withdrawal of the special privilege granted to the island.

"The resolution was tabled, debated and approved with the full realisation of only one aim, which is to serve the best interest of the island's population," he told reporters.

Abu Bakar, who is MP for Langkawi, said this when commenting on the remarks of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that he was saddened to hear certain quarters wanted the duty-free status withdrawn.

Dr Mahathir described those behind the move as ungrateful.

The resolution was among three approved at the division's delegates meeting on July 28. The other two urged the government to review the role of the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) and the ferry fare increases.

Abu Bakar said the intention in urging the government to review the status was to improve existing weaknesses which had apparently been exploited by the opposition. There was never any intention to request the withdrawal of the duty-free status.

In this context, he said, the division would defend the resolution for it believed it had solid grounds to do so.

Abu Bakar said the resolution to review the role of Lada was also based on similar grounds.

He said he had written to Dr Mahathir last week to clarify the issue and to tender his apologies if the resolutions had hurt the Prime Minister's feelings.

- BERNAMA

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