

30 DEC 2000

Abdullah-Demands

ENOUGH SAID ABOUT SUQIU CONTROVERSY, SAYS PAK LAH

MUAR, Dec 30 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today reiterated his call to all quarters to stop talking about the issue over Siqiu's demands as such comments will not bring any benefit.

"By right we should not entertain...when we talk, some people will seize the opportunity," he said.

Abdullah said Malaysians should understand that such comments would not do any good to the existing good ties between the races.

No group should ask for and hope that all that they requested would be granted, he told reporters at the Hari Raya open house of Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman in Sungai Mati, near here.

He said the spirit of compromise was part of the agreement reached between the races in the country and, therefore, no groups should expect to get 100 percent of everything they asked for.

"If we have already agreed, let's not raise these matters again," said Abdullah who is Home Minister.

Asked whether action would be taken against anyone who continued to harp on this issue, Abdullah said: "I have issued this reminder twice."

"I think all those who heard me understand as what I said is very clear... what the Prime Minister said is also very clear," he said.

On Dec 24, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government had rejected Suqiu's requests to abolish the special rights and privileges of the Malays as the demands were extreme.

On Dec 11, Dr Mahathir told the Dewan Rakyat that the Federal Constitution and the social contract which served as the country's foundation would be undone if the government were to accede to all of Suqiu's 83 demands, which included calls for abolishing the special rights of the Malays.

Following the demands submitted by Suqiu (the Malaysian Chinese Organisations Election Appeals Committee), the Peninsular Malay Students Federation (GPMS) made a 100-point counter-petition, including to amend the Constitution to stipulate that only a Malay can be the Prime Minister.

-- BERNAMA

MKO YBY