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Suqiu-Reaction

BN COMPONENTS WELCOME SUQIU'S MOVE NOT TO QUESTION MALAY RIGHTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional component parties today lauded the move by the Malaysian Chinese Organisations Election Appeals Committee (Suqiu) to "put aside" seven points touching on the special rights of the Malays from its 83-point petition to the government.

MIC secretary-general S. Sothinathan said the move is good for maintaining unity among the various races in the country.

"Siqiu's move is a good one as it shows that they are willing to abide by the principles enshrined in our Constitution, and it will also foster a closer relationship between races in the country," he said.

He said the move would also pave the way for closer relations between races and boost efforts to develop the country.

Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas said Suqiu's move showed that it was interested in preserving unity and peace in the country.

"They have the country's interest at heart, and we should applaud their bold decision even though it will not go down well with some quarters," he said.

He said the move would remove suspicion and anxiety among the people that the country was heading for a racial clash, especially with the war of words between Suqiu and Umno Youth.

Before the 1999 general election, Suqiu submitted to the government the petition which included demands for the abolition of special privileges for the Malays.

This caused an uproar among Malays, including Umno Youth and the Peninsular Malay Students Federation (GPMS).

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.

Gerakan vice-president Dr V. Vijayarajam said Suqiu was noble in its action to withdraw certain points from its petition.

"This move will also serve to defuse the tensed situation, but we hope this will not be seen as a weakness on the part of Suqiu but more of respecting, being tolerant and highly mature," he said.

He said in future such issues should not be blown out of proportion as it could jeopardise the country's security.

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Taib commended Suqiu for its willingness to drop its demands which touched on sensitive matters.

"We begin the new year with pleasant news...they have got the message that there are some fundamental things that should not be raised," he told Bernama.

-- BERNAMA

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