

20 MAR 2001

Memo-PM

GROUP TRIES TO HAND OVER MEMO TO PM AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 20 (Bernama) -- About 100 people gathered outside Parliament House main gate here today to hand over to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad a memorandum relating to the recent clashes in Jalan Klang Lama between rival resident groups.

A man introducing himself to reporters as Charles Santiago and as leader of the so-called "group of concerned citizens", refused to hand over the memorandum to Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Senator Datuk M Kayveas who approached him at the gate upon being informed of the group's presence.

The group insisted on handing over the memorandum personally to Dr Mahathir or his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who were both not in Parliament House at that point of time.

It appeared that the group wanted to hand over to Dr Mahathir the same 11-page memorandum circulated to reporters at the gate and distributed earlier to opposition MPs at today's sitting.

Santiago said he refused to give the memorandum meant for the PM through Kayveas saying that it concerned national issue and was for Dr Mahathir or Abdullah's eyes only.

It could not be immediately verified whether the group indeed comprised residents of Kampung Medan or the surrounding housing areas off Jalan Klang Lama where the recent clashes occurred.

Kayveas told reporters he was dissatisfied with the disrespect shown to him by the group and could not understand why it insisted on meeting Dr Mahathir or Abdullah when MPs present could also look into its demands.

The group also distributed to reporters copies of a letter sent to the Office of the Prime Minister dated March 16 seeking an appointment today to hand over the memorandum to Dr Mahathir at Parliament House.

The group used Suite 501, Wisma Minerva, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman as its address for the letter.

-- BERNAMA

SLR AKT RYN