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PM: Remaining points raised by Suqiu still under study

SIK, Fri. - The Government is still studying the implications of the remaining points raised by Chinese Associations Election Appeals Committee (Suqiu), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

If deemed necessary, another round of discussion would be held with leaders of the Chinese associations.

"If the points could lead to disharmony, then we will hold another round of discussions (with them) so that such things are not raised," he said.

Although the other points did not touch on the special position of the Malays or the position of Islam as the official religion, a comprehensive study was still necessary.

He said this in reply to a question from a Sik Umno member, Zulkifli Abdul Kadir, who wanted to know the status of the remaining points raised by Suqiu following the committee's decision to set aside seven of its 83-points.

Dr Mahathir met Umno grassroots leaders from Sik and Baling. Yesterday, he met leaders from Padang Terap and Pokok Sena.

Dr Mahathir said Suqiu leaders had accepted the special position of the Malays and the status of Islam as official religion of the country.

"They have admitted they misunderstood and promised not to raise such matters again.

"I hope they will not raise them before future elections," he said.

Early this month, Suqiu, in a joint announcement with Umno Youth, "put aside" seven of its 83-point election appeals in view of "the prevailing ethnic tension."

Both parties agreed that the action was also "in view of the special rights, position, privileges of the Malays and the natives of any of the State of Sabah and Sarawak as enshrined in Article 153 and other such relevant Articles of the Federal Constitution not be questioned."

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