

10 MAR 2001

Ungku Aziz-Meeting

UNGKU AZIZ WANTS TO WRITE ARTICLE ON IMPORTANCE OF UMNO-PAS MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, March 10 (Bernama) -- Royal Prof Ungku Aziz, who was selected as the moderator of the proposed debate between the Umno and PAS Youth leaders some time ago, wants to write an article on the importance of the Umno-PAS meeting for the purpose of Malay unity.

Ungku Aziz said that only through a special article he would be writing soon would he be able to give an adequate comment on the importance of such a meeting to the Malays.

"I do not wish to comment on the importance of such a meeting (now) because it is not sufficient to fill up the pages tomorrow," he said when met after a review of the book "Kisah Kayu" at Universiti Malaya (UM) today.

Discussion on the book was also participated by national laureate Datuk A. Samad Said, UM's Dental Faculty dean Prof Datuk Dr Hashim Yaacob, who is also a writer, and artiste Aishah.

Ungku Aziz has agreed to be the moderator of the proposed debate between Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammudin Tun Hussein and PAS Youth chief Mahfuz Omar. However, the debate did not materialise following the proposal for both parties to hold talks to discuss the issue of Malay unity.

Asked for his views on the Umno-PAS meeting, Ungku Aziz briefly said that it was good for the purpose of consensus-seeking.

However, he said, the meeting was akin to a tango as it would not become reality without both parties agreeing to it.

"I will need at least 20,000 words to explain whether or not the meeting should be held," he said.

The meeting, proposed by Umno, was fixed for Feb 19 but was called off by PAS which set three preconditions for the meeting to be held.

They want oil royalty payment to Terengganu to be restored instead of the special payment channelled directly to the people in the PAS-led state as decided by the federal government, the PAS official organ "Harakah" to be allowed to be published twice weekly as previously instead of twice monthly at present, and the proposal for a ban of the use of the word Islam on the name of political parties by Umno be called off.

PAS earlier stated that the party wants the agenda of the formal meeting to include the position of Islam, federalism, the judiciary and the economy.

Last Thursday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that the proposed Umno-PAS meeting was to discuss Malay interests like the special rights of the Malays, the position of Islam and the national language, and the status of the Malay Rulers, as enshrined in the federal constitution.

-- BERNAMA

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