

Husam outlines Dr M's three 'betrayals'
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The row between Umno and PAS over which party had betrayed the Malay community continues with Kelantan state exco member Husam Musa outlining three actions of former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Depriving Kelantan of any benefits from the 1990 Malaysia-Thailand joint development area (JDA) agreement to extract minerals from the Gulf of Thailand was Husam's first charge against the Mahathir administration.

He said the Mahathir administration intentionally avoided piping gas from the JDA to Kelantan, even though the shore was 150km from well in the gulf, and instead agreed to pipe the gas to Songkla in Thailand, which is 270km away.

From Songkla, a 180km pipe had to be constructed to bring gas into Malaysia through Kedah, just to avoid touching Kelantan.

"When Kelantan's rights are denied, Kelantanese rights are being deprived and they are betrayed. Ninety-five percent of Kelantanese are Malays. This means Mahathir has betrayed the Malays, particularly Kelantanese Malays," Husam (right) said.

He described the JDA as a "well of wealth" next to Kelantan, but from which the state does not derive any benefit.

'Diluting ketuanan Melayu'

Next, Husam said, the Mahathir administration's second act of betrayal of the Malays was when the federal government severed the flow of oil royalties to Terengganu in 1999, after the BN was thrown out by the people of the state.

"Ninety-five percent of the people in Terengganu are Malays. Again, Mahathir chose to forgo Malay interests for Umno's interest. The Malays in Terengganu were betrayed," he said.

And finally, Husam accused the Mahathir administration of padding up Malay-majority constituencies with non-Malays back in 1999.

This was done following the massive vote swing among the Malays against BN, after the sacking of Anwar Ibrahim from the cabinet. The non-Malay voters overwhelmingly supported BN.

"By moving non-Malays to Malay-majority constituencies all over the country, he was trying to dilute the Malay votes to ensure that Umno and BN win.

"Today, Umno leaders are claiming that ketuanan Melayu is at risk. So, who's fault is it?" asked Husam.

He said this in response to Mahathir's speech at the Perkasa gathering in Perak last Saturday, at which the former premier accused PAS spiritual leader Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and PKR de facto leader Anwar Ibrahim of betraying the Malays.

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