

## **PM to study Sabah's claim for 40pct net revenue**

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has agreed to form a special committee to study Sabah's 40 percent entitlement of the net revenue collected by the federal government from the state, Kimanis Member of Parliament (MP) Anifah Aman announced in Putrajaya today.

He said the committee will also study thoroughly several issues especially on the financial rights of the oil and gas royalty, which was last paid in 1974.

Anifah, who is also the foreign minister, however, did not elaborate who will sit in the committee or when it will be formed.

"This committee is very much needed as 'outsiders' are trying to poison the mind of the younger generation and claiming that when Malaya took over Sabah, they also took over the property.

"This has gained momentum and we feel we (Sabahans) should address this by setting aside our political position. Besides, it is our right for the entitlement," he told reporters after a meeting with Najib at Perdana Putra in Putrajaya.

Others who attended today's meeting were State Reform Party (Star) Sabah chief Jeffrey Kitingan (photo), former Tuaran PKR chief Ansari Abdullah, Parti Kerjasama Rakyat Sabah (Pakar) secretary-general Zainnal Ajamain and constitutional lawyer Edmund Bon.

Anifah said: "The 40 percent entitlement for Sabah is a legitimate claim under the federal constitution. It is rightly ours and we rightly deserve it."

Star Sabah's Kitingan had claimed that Sabah was entitled to all arrears on the 40 percent entitlement since 1975, which appeared to be last paid in 1974 as it was entrenched in the 10th Schedule of the federal constitution.

On June 17, Kitingan, who is also the assemblyperson for Bingkor, had urged the Sabah government to send a letter to the Federal government to demand that it pay an estimated RM100 billion plus compound interest accumulated and due since 1975.

The RM100 billion plus compound interest does not include an increase of the present 5 percent cash payment or oil royalty to 20 percent as demanded by the Sarawak government, which will in Sabah's case add another RM3.45 billion per annum.

The RM100 billion plus includes the 95 percent oil and gas revenue that the federal government collects in Sabah and the oil and gas component alone could be worth RM8.72 billion based on Budget 2015 figures.

- Bernama

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