

BN, Harapan's manifestos on MA63 too little, too late
MalaysiaKini.com
15 Februari 2018

LETTER | The completion of the decolonisation of Sabah and Sarawak which started in 1962/63 is the way forward in Borneo - not belated compliance on the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63).

Both BN and Pakatan Harapan have pledged compliance with MA63 as we head towards the next general election.

Ironically, longtime Borneo rights advocate Jeffrey Kitingan was detained in the 1990s under the draconian Internal Security Act (ISA) for demanding compliance on MA63.

Then prime minister Mahathir Mohamad was responsible for Kitingan's incarceration. Now, the same man has been chosen by Harapan as its prime minister-designate for GE14.

There are no secrets in Sabah.

Sabahans believe that Mahathir relieved Kitingan of all his money before freeing him from detention in early 1994, just in time for the state election.

Kitingan had been detained for two two-year terms. He was released half-way through his second term.

Briefly, compliance became the issue when Article 1(2) was amended on July 13 to reduce the status of Sabah and Sarawak to the twelfth and thirteenth states in Malaya — a “fake Malaysia”.

The definition of “federation” in Article 160 refers. The Federation of Malaya Independence Act 1957 reinforced the Federation of Malaya Act 1948.

The real Malaysia is in MA63 which was not mentioned in Article 160.

Before 1976, Sabah and Sarawak were equal partners of Malaya in the federation, despite MA63 not being mentioned in Article 160.

Patently, there must be closure on Malaya's presence in Borneo.

Decolonisation would restore sovereignty to the people of Sabah and Sarawak. The people have a right, under international law, to self-determination.

Sabah and Sarawak federating with Malaya cannot be considered a form of self-determination since the people didn't have even self-government, in 1963, and there was no referendum on the federation.

There was a "Yes/No" vote in self-governing Singapore in the 1962/63 on a merger with Malaya through MA63.

When the British forced the Rajah of Sarawak to abdicate after World War II and seized the country as a colony, they promised to restore sovereignty to the people. Instead, they handed Sarawak (and Sabah) to Malaya as colonies.

President Diosdado P Macapagal (1961 to 1965), in explaining the Philippines claim to Sabah, pointed out the British did not give independence to the territory before they departed in 1963.

If the British had given independence to Sabah, said Macapagal, the Philippines claim to the territory in North Borneo would not have arisen.

Again, decolonisation would end the Philippines claim to Sabah. Also, it would belatedly restore sovereignty to the people of Sarawak.

The writer is chairperson, Gabungan Rakyat Saksama.

Copyright © 1999-2016 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd

Source: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/412377>