

**Change 'ketuanan' to Malay 'sovereignty': Sultan
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It is more appropriate for 'Malay supremacy' to be rephrased as 'Malay sovereignty' as the latter encompasses the position of the Malay rulers and their subjects and not just the purported master-slave relationship, the Sultan of Johor, Sultan Ibrahim Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, said today.

"Malay supremacy refers to the sovereignty of the Malay states with the rulers at the apex of the governments in the Malay states," he said when opening a conference of ulama in Johor Bahru.

NONESultan Ibrahim said that when the British gave independence to this country, they returned Malaya to the owners - the Malay rulers and their subjects.

He said this was because prior to the arrival of the British and the advent of the other races, the Malay states were owned by the Malay rulers and their subjects.

"Even before the Malay states were made a federation, the Malay rulers and their subjects have accepted outsiders as guests and given them the opportunity to earn a living and develop Malaya together.

"When the states became a federation, the rights of the other races were respected and safeguarded by the Federal Constitution," he said.

Sultan Ibrahim said the reason he raised the question of Malay supremacy was because many people had yet to understand the matter and misinterpreted the meaning.

Soul-searching

Hence, he reminded the Malays to indulge in soul-searching and safeguard Malay sovereignty as there was a group of Malays themselves who wanted to dismiss Malay sovereignty which had been enshrined in the constitution.

"Based on current developments, I would like to remind the Malays to indulge in soul-searching and get back on track," he said.

azlanSultan Ibrahim said the Malay monarchy and system of government had existed for over hundreds of years to this day and were enshrined in the constitution.

He said the concept of Malay sovereignty, which encompassed the position of the Malay rulers, Islam as the federation's official religion, the Malay language as the national language, and Malay rights, had never deemed the other races in the country as outsiders.

The sultan also called on ulama to play their role in explaining and safeguarding Malay

sovereignty, besides upholding the laws of Islam.

Sultan Ibrahim also reminded the people to practice the teachings of Islam according to Shafi'e legal school to avert disunity.

To overcome the problems related to the Islamic faith, worship and belief, he proposed to the Johor government to create a Muslim think-tank, comprising ulama, law practitioners, and literary figures, to discuss problems related to the Muslim community and their solutions.

He also urged ulama to disseminate their knowledge through writing as practised by the ancient scholars such as Al-Ghazali and Shafie.

Sultan Ibrahim also proposed the establishment of a centre of faith purification and a centre for research, development and dissemination of Islamic teachings according to Mazhab Shafi'e.

- Bernama

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