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PRIME NEWS

Dr M: Stop payment to Sulu sultanate

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government should stop payment of money to the heirs of the Sulu sultanate as they had broken the agreement.

"We should reduce or stop altogether paying cession money to the heirs of the Sulu sultan as they broke the agreement when they attacked our soldiers in Sabah," said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

The former prime minister said this when commenting on the incursions by Sulu terrorists in the east coast of Sabah.

He said Malaysia had developed Sabah into a developed state and did not deserve to be treated as the enemy to the Sulu people.

The eastern part of Sabah was ceded to the Sulu sultan by the Brunei sultan between 1850 and 1859 for helping to triumph over enemies.

On Sept 16, 1963, Sabah, Malaya, Sarawak and Singapore (which left in 1965) came together to form the Federation of Malaysia. This followed the determination by the Cobbold Commission in which residents of Sabah overwhelmingly favoured to join the federation.

Malaysia does not deny paying cession money to heirs of the Sulu sultanate of RM5,300 per year. From 1968 to 1992, the payment of cession was made by the Sabah state government.

Payment was made by the Federal Government after this period.



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