

PAS calls Umno out on MPN's version of history
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11 — PAS today put Umno in the hot seat over remarks made by the National Professors' Council (MPN), which claimed that Malaysia was never colonised by the British.

Professor Datuk Dr Zainal Kling, who was representing the MPN, had said in a statement recently that Malaysia had never been colonised by the British prior to Merdeka and had only been a protectorate of the British Empire.

The MPN said that although the British had then governed Malaya, it had remained sovereign under the Malay rulers.

Malaya later joined together with Singapore, Sabah, and Sarawak to form Malaysia in 1963. Singapore was subsequently expelled in 1965.

"Umno has to state its stand regarding the remarks made by the MPN. Do they support it or are against it?"

"Umno has not said anything regarding whether Malaysia was colonised. We dare Umno to state its stand. If it is true this country was never colonised, we should cancel Warriors Day (Hari Pahlawan) this September 16," PAS information chief Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man told The Malaysian Insider.

The PAS leader said MPN's statement brought about serious "general" and "academic" implications, and that the onus was on Umno to respond given its position as the lynchpin of the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition,

"The people await the response... it will be irresponsible for them to remain silent," added Tuan Ibrahim.

The current furore over Malaysia's history first started when Utusan Malaysia alleged that PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu had said on August 27 that the communists who attacked the Bukit Kepong police station during the pre-Merdeka insurgency were heroes. The Umno-owned daily reported that Mohamad made the remarks at a political ceramah in Tasek Gelugor, Penang, on August 21.

During the Emergency (1948-1960), communist insurgents had attacked the Bukit Kepong police station on February 23, 1950 while the country was still under British rule.

The Malay daily also stated that the PAS leader said the country's first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj and Umno's first president Datuk Onn Jaafar were not freedom fighters.

Mohamad has since said he will file a suit on Monday against Utusan Malaysia over its report of his ceramah last month that touched on the Bukit Kepong tragedy.

His 24-hour ultimatum for an apology from the Umno-owned Malay-language daily expired

two days ago.

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