

**PAS wants special panel for thorough review of Malaysia's history**  
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**By Clara Chooi and Mohamed Hosni Ibrahim**

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 14 — PAS today urged Putrajaya to form a non-partisan panel of experts to review Malaysia's entire historical background and end the ongoing historical accuracies argument.

PAS vice-president Datuk Mahfuz Omar told a press conference here that the current slew of debates among politicians across the divide is proof that the country's history textbooks may be inaccurate in depicting past events.

He said all parties should accept the possibility that Malaysia's history textbooks could be filled with errors and be "open" to a complete review of the facts.

"All Malaysians, whether historians or academics or politicians, should be open to a review of the historical facts... they could be wrong, they could be right," he said.

The Pokok Sena MP was responding to recent assertion by National Professors' Council (MPN) that Malaya was never colonised by the British. Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad later conceded to the surprising claim but insisted that British advisers had acted as if they were the rulers instead of the Malay Sultans.

The subject of local history became a hot topic after Umno-owned 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.

Mahfuz (picture) also voiced support for Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Khaled Nordin's statement last week that the current history syllabus in schools was in need of review.

"Khaled's statement and other statements made by MPN, individuals including politicians like Dr Mahathir and even (deputy prime minister Tan Sri) Muhyiddin Yassin indicate that there are problems with the facts in our history books.

"It not only involves the history of the spread of Islam to Malaysia but also arguments over Malaysia's independence itself.

"The assertion that Malaysia was never colonised and Dr Mahathir saying that this is true from a technical aspect... we need to review our entire history and find the truth," he said.

Mahfuz said the government should expand its current panel of experts reviewing the move to turn history into must-pass subject for SPM to include other individuals qualified to review the entire subject itself.

Upon completion of the review, he said, Putrajaya should then look into infusing the tweaked versions of Malaysia's history into the present school curriculum.

"Call the experts... perhaps even include Mat Sabu. Do not create a polemic, do not slander

one another and use this issue to debate endlessly... to me, this is to no positive end," he said.

Mahfuz complained that the ongoing debates among politicians were confusing Malaysians, especially school-going youths.

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