

PAS: Set up cabinet committee to rewrite pre-Merdeka history
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KUALA LUMPUR (Sept 6, 2011): PAS is urging the government to form a cabinet committee to rewrite the nation's pre-independence history.

Party vice-president Salahuddin Ayub said if the government is sincere in acknowledging the historical facts and recognising freedom fighters of the nation, then it should form the committee.

"If (Prime Minister Datuk Seri) Najib (Razak) is sincere, he can form a cabinet committee to rewrite the history of the country pre-independence.

"They can call representatives from all sides to participate in the committee," said Salahuddin at a press conference today. Also present was PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu, PAS secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali and PAS information chief Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man.

Salahuddin was referring to Mohamad Sabu, better known as Mat Sabu, who came under fire for his speech in Tasik Gelugor, Penang, recently which some quarters claimed glorified the communists.

Mat Sabu was quoted by Malay daily *Utusan Malaysia* as saying insurgent Mat Indera, who led the Communist attack on the Bukit Kepong police station in 1950, was the real hero of Bukit Kepong, and not the police personnel defending the station.

Mustafa said while the party strongly rejects the communist ideology, it stressed that all the nation's freedom fighters should be duly recognised for their contributions.

"We're not saying that Tunku Abdul Rahman or (Datuk) Onn (Jaafar) did not play a part but there are also others such as Datuk Maharajalela, Tok Janggut and Dol Said who had contributed to the nation's independence as well," said Mustafa.

He said more acknowledgement should also be given to other leaders from parties like the Malay Nationalist Party such as Dr Burhanuddin Helmy, Ahmad Boestamam and Ibrahim Yaakob, who were jailed by the British for agitating for independence.

Meanwhile, PAS said the party will send a formal invitation to Umno for its deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also deputy prime minister, to debate the Bukit Kepong incident with Mat Sabu.

"We will send the letter to the Umno information chief (Datuk Seri Ahmad Maslan) by the end of the week," said Tuan Ibrahim.

He said Muhyiddin is the best person to debate on the matter, instead of Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin, who has offered to debate the issue.

"He (Muhyiddin) keeps saying that I should repent, so it would be good for me to face him, to learn from him," said Mat Sabu.

Mat Sabu also urged victims of the Bukit Kepong attack, who felt that they had not been duly compensated, to take up the proposal made by a PAS lawyer that they seek damages from the British government.

"The lawyer, who is a Johor native, said he is prepared to take the case to seek compensation, like in the case of the Batang Kali massacre, for which the British eventually paid damages to the victims," he said.

PAS is urging the government to form a cabinet committee to rewrite pre-independence history.

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