

Muhyiddin Will Not Debate With Mat Sabu
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 13 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin stated Tuesday that he would not debate with PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu, better known as Mat Sabu, on who were the country's real independence fighters.

Muhyiddin said Mat Sabu should not be twisting historical facts to achieve his political ambition as "history has nothing to do with politics and the issue raised by him can create trouble in the country".

"As a political leader, Mat Sabu should withdraw his statement which heralded the communist terrorists as the real heroes in the Bukit Kepong tragedy and to openly apologise for his offending statement."

Muhyiddin said this at a news conference after the presentation of the New Deal for School Principals (Secondary) and School Heads (Primary) under the National Key Result Area (NKRA) of Education 2010 at the Education Technology Division in Bukit Kiara, here, Tuesday.

Also present were Education director-general Datuk Abd Ghafar Mahmud and the Education Ministry's secretary-general Datuk Dr Rosli Mohamed.

Muhyiddin said historians were the people most qualified to debate with Mat Sabu and not him.

Asked on the suit to be filed by Mat Sabu if he refused to take up his challenge, Muhyiddin said: "Never mind, I'll wait for him to sue me."

On his dinner function with China's Communist Party secretary of Jilin province, Sun Zhengcai, he said diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the communist country were good and that Malaysia respected China's ideology.

"Malaysia does not criticise China for its communist ideology but it condemned the atrocities committed by the Communist Party of Malaya terrorists before this country achieved its independence."

He said Malaysia-China bilateral ties were important as both countries had established business, trade and industrial relations in various sectors," he said.

He added that the United States which practised full democracy also established relations with China, "so we need to be pragmatic in this matter and not create a political issue out of it".

On the proposed imposition of six per cent service tax on pre-paid mobile phone users by the telecommunication companies, Muhyiddin said it would be discussed at the cabinet meeting.

He said the issue should be a lesson for businesses not to indiscriminately raise prices

before getting approval from the government.

"The imposing or raising of service charges cannot be viewed lightly, as consumers are now facing a lot of pressure due to the rising cost of living," he added.

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