

Dr M: History turning into fantasy
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ALOR SETAR, Sept 11—Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Malaysian history as currently taught in schools was inaccurate, claiming that it failed to provide proper context of the country's fight for independence.

"Many from the younger generation do not understand history and the origin of the nation, as there were attempts to alter historical facts into fantasy," the former prime minister was quoted as saying in a Bernama Online report today.

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.

National Professors' Council (MPN) has taken the debate further by claiming that Malaya, the precursor to Malaysia, was never colonised by the British Empire and had merely been a protectorate.

Today, Dr Mahathir urged the government ensure that historical accuracy be given priority over political expedience.

"The government needs to focus on what really transpired so that writings on the country's history would not be influenced by current political interests... History is all about what had happened, and we cannot change that... whatever happened in the past, had happened," said Dr Mahathir.

Last week, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Khaled Nordin said the current History syllabus in schools was in need of review.

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