

Kelantan BN Welcomes Setting Up Of Special Committee On Oil Payment
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KOTA BAHARU, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan Barisan Nasional (BN) welcomes the setting up of a special committee to study in a fair and transparent manner the issue of cash payment from petroleum revenue to the states in the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

Its chairman, Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, said it was appropriate that the matter be handled by the special committee which comprised legal experts from within and outside the country, and representatives from the Kelantan, Pahang and Terengganu governments consented to by the ruler of the respective states.

"We leave it to the special committee because they are the legal experts based on the terms of reference suggested by the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak) in his statement yesterday, they do not favour any sides," he told reporters here today.

He said this when asked to comment on Najib's announcement on the setting up of the committee yesterday.

Mustapa, who is International Trade and Industry Minister, said the presence of a representative from the state government consented to by the Kelantan Sultan in the committee would mean that the views of the Kelantan would be taken into account.

"We hope that no one is emotional and politicise the matter," he added.

He said the committee would also study whether Kelantan should continue to get the 'wang ehsan' (compassionate funds), where RM61.8 million had been disbursed to the state through the Federal Development Department since the past three years.

Najib, when announcing the committee yesterday, said it would be chaired by former chief justice Tun Abdul Hamid Mohamad.

He said the committee would carry out a comprehensive study within a period of six months from the date of its establishment and would make appropriate recommendations to the federal government.

On Najib's visit to the state today, Mustapa said it would boost the Kelantan BN's spirit in its preparation for the coming general election.

The prime minister is scheduled to arrive at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport, Pengkalan Chepa here about 4.30pm.

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