

## **PAS: Re – open Memali**

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KUALA LUMPUR: PAS today urged the government to re-investigate the Memali incident after former deputy prime minister Musa Hitam revealed new critical information last Thursday in relation to the incident which saw the death of 14 civilians and two policemen in 1985.

Musa had, during a political discussion in Kota Baru, exposed that former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad was indeed in the country during the incident and not away in China as was reported previously.

Mahathir, when asked about this, responded over the weekend that he needed to check before commenting on his whereabouts at that time.

Speaking to reporters at parliament today, Pokok Sena MP Mahfuz Omar said that false and misleading reports on Mahathir's whereabouts at that time indicated a conspiracy by the government.

Mahfuz also wanted the government to retrieve the Memali incident 'white paper' issued in 1986. The white paper showed extremists had tried to spread deviant teachings and disrupt public order.

Meanwhile along the re-investigation, Mahfuz also demanded the National Fatwa Council to re-look into the fatwa which was issued during that period.

The Kedah State Fatwa Council took the dramatic step of issuing a fatwa saying that those who died were not al-shahid (non-martyrs) as claimed by PAS.

The Memali incident took place at a remote village in Baling, Kedah, in November 1985.

A team of policemen laid siege on the village of about 400 people and where the late Ibrahim Mahmud, also known as Ibrahim Libya, had been running a religious school. The incident resulted in the death of 14 civilians and two policemen. Ibrahim was a PAS follower

The Memali incident saw hundreds of people detained but later released, except for 36 individuals who were detained under the Internal Security Act. Nevertheless they too were released in June 1986.

Musa had been blamed for the shoot-out in Kampung Memali as it was believed that he was in charge of the country at that time following Mahathir's visit to China.

But Musa's recent revelation opens a new episode in the tragic incident.

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