

## **Counter Opposition Lies On Sabah Rights Issue - Salleh**

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KOTA KINABALU, Feb 13 (Bernama) - Sabah Umno Youth leaders should explain to the people at the grassroots level about Sabah rights and interest in the federal constitution to prevent them from being misled by irresponsible groups.

Deputy chairman of Sabah Umno Liaison Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Tun Said Keruak said this is necessary as certain parties are trying to distort the Sabah issue to gain political mileage.

He said Sabah Umno Youth should be proactive in defending Sabah rights as stated during the formation of Malaysia.

"Umno Youth must remain strong in facing this issue as many people are trying to manipulate Sabah rights for their political interest.

"We do not want confrontation but being a national party, Umno has to defend it," he told reporters after a courtesy call by the Sabah Umno Youth delegation led by its leader, Mohd Yamani Hafiz Datuk Musa, here Thursday.

Salleh said various parties had raised the 'Sabah for Sabahan' issue and the 20-point agreement to influence the thoughts and sentiments of the people of Sabah.

The Speaker of the Sabah State Legislative Assembly said Umno Youth should always be at the forefront to counter propaganda spread by the opposition.

"The role of Umno Youth is very important in the face of challenges and current issues for the continuity and survival of the party," he said, adding Umno Youth should become a bridge between the people and the government.

This is because as the largest group within the party, the Umno Youth leaders better understand the pulse of the people at the grassroots level.

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