

I have to check if Musa is right about Memali, it happened a long time ago, says Dr Mahathir
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By Sheridan Mahavera

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he will study the allegation by former deputy Tun Musa Hitam that he was in Kuala Lumpur during the Memali tragedy in 1985.

"I am studying the matter.

"It is because this happened a long time ago. I have to check back whether what he said is right or not," he said, referring to what Musa's remark, after attending a high tea party with the University Utara Malaysia alumni at Istana Hotel today.

Musa said that Dr Mahathir was in town during the incident almost 30 years ago and not in China as was previously reported.

He said this during a political discussion in Kota Baru, Kelantan, two days ago.

PAS vice-president Datuk Husam Musa was also a panellist at the talk moderated by Associate Professor Datuk Dr Mohamad Agus Yusof.

In a response to a question from Agus, Musa said Dr Mahathir, who was the then prime minister, was in town when the tragedy happened.

He added that Dr Mahathir was still in Kuala Lumpur two or three days after the incident.

The Memali incident in Baling, Kedah, on November 19, 1985, resulted in the death of 14 civilians and two policemen.

On that day, a team of policemen laid siege to the village of about 400 people where the late Ibrahim Mahmud, who was also known as Ibrahim Libya, had been running a religious school.

Ibrahim, a religious and political leader, was accused of spreading deviant teachings.

The policemen were at the village to detain him under the Internal Security Act but he refused to surrender. – March 29, 2014.

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