

Speaker rejects motion to debate Memali incident

Free Malaysia Today

9 April 2014

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Pandikar Amin Mulia rejected the motion by Mahfuz Omar on the grounds that Musa Hitam's revelations were made at a forum.

KUALA LUMPUR: Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia today rejected a motion to debate the formation of a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) to probe the 1985 Memali massacre, and to retract the incident's white paper.

Mahfuz Omar (PAS-Pokok Sena) had submitted the motion on Monday in light of new information from former deputy prime minister Musa Hitam on the massacre.

He said that Musa's statements contradicted the facts presented to the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara through the white paper – the government's official account of the incident that left 14 civilians and four policemen dead.

"The recent admissions by Musa Hitam as brought new developments on an incident that has become a black stain in our country's history.

"Malaysians, especially the descendants of the 18 who died, deserve justice and they have the right to know what really happened in Kampung Memali on November 19 1985, and the motives behind the incident," Mahfuz had said in his submission to Pandikar.

But Pandikar had rejected the motions because it was deemed "hearsay", as Musa had made the remarks in a forum, Mahfuz told reporters in a press conference.

Musa, during a political discussion in Kota Bharu, claimed that former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad was in the country during the Memali incident, and not in China as previously reported.

Mahfuz said that Musa's remarks nullified the white paper and tarnished the reputation of the Dewan Negara, as it had been "lied to" with the paper.

Earlier today, Mahfuz attempted to table the motion in the House, but was stopped by Deputy Speaker Ismail Mohamad Said who said he was bound by Pandikar's decision.

"The Speaker's excuse is flimsy; he is well aware of Musa's statement. He should protect the Dewan's good name (by retracting the white paper). At the very least, he should call Musa to Parliament to give a proper explanation," Mahfuz told a press conference at the Parliament lobby.

"Musa has already expressed his willingness to come forward with the real facts. The individuals involved in the incident, such as (former inspector-general of police) Hanif

Omar, Dr Mahathir are still alive and can be called to Parliament.”

Mahfuz said Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak should not be afraid to tell the truth as the massacre took place before he took over the country’s reins.

“Najib, don’t be afraid of correcting other people’s falsehoods. This is Mahathir’s cover up. So just tell us the truth,” urged Mahfuz.

The Memali incident took place at a remote village of about 400 people in Baling, Kedah.

A team of policemen laid siege on the village where the late Ibrahim Mahmud, a PAS follower also known as Ibrahim Libya, had been running a religious school.

The Memali incident saw hundreds of people detained but later released. A total of 36 individuals were detained under the now-abolished Internal Security Act, but were released in June 1986.

Musa has been blamed for the shootout 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 recently insisted Mahathir had only left for China shortly after the massacre took place, leaving the former in charge.

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Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2014/04/09/speaker-rejects-motion-to-debate-memali-incident/>