

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS

'New Malaysia Agreement needed for Sabah to move forward'

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THE country may need a new agreement for Sabah, Sarawak and the peninsula to achieve a Malaysia with good state-federal relations.

Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Dr Jeffrey Kitingan said people should move beyond the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) that had hampered development in the country, particularly in East Malaysia.

"MA63 is not exactly what we planned for. It does not match our aspirations. We have become something else.

"Many citizens, especially the young, do not want to be tied up with Malaya's agenda. To move forward, we have to be more independent and fulfil greater aspirations. "We have been talking about MA63, it is time for us to talk about something else — how to develop the federation and Sabah," he said at a forum by Society Empowerment and Economic Development of Sabah (Seeds) on "Beyond the 2020 Sabah Polls: Sabah Moving Forward" yesterday.

Other panellists were Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin and Parti Warisan Sabah deputy president



Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Jeffrey Kitingan says Sabah is not moving forward because the central government made the state too dependent on it for security, finance and development. PIC FROM SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SABAH FACEBOOK PAGE

Datuk Darell Leiking.

Jeffrey, who is also Parti Solidariti Tanah Airku president, said Sabah was not moving forward because the central government made the state too dependent on it, particularly for the issues of security, finance and development.

He said the federal government should

allow Sabah's and Sarawak's leaders to deal with state affairs, but work together as equal partners at the central level.

"The Malaysia now is not what we aspired it to be, (it will continue) as long as state-federal conflicts continue and we keep talking about this rather than moving forward.

"Maybe we need a new Malaysia Agree-

ment. We should form a Malaysian Union, where the independent states of Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia sit together to form a Malaysia that we want."

Bung, who is also state Umno liaison committee chief, said Sabah had to be independent and look after itself without relying too much on the central government.

"Sabah will continue to be left behind if we continue to depend on the central government leadership who cannot develop the state directly.

"How much can the state develop if we keep relying on the federal government?" Darell said there was a need to elevate the status of Sabah as an equal partner and with equal powers, particularly in fiscal matters and immigration control in Labuan.

The Penampang member of parliament said a possible solution towards having power equalisation was to appoint the chief ministers of Sabah and Sarawak as deputy prime ministers.

"(By doing so,) they can bring issues in Sabah and Sarawak to the federal government. It may sound Sabah- and Sarawak-centric, but we are equal partners and the federal government has to clarify whether we are colonies of the federation or otherwise."

SUNGAI DUA WATER TREATMENT PLANT

'Water treatment residue not hazardous'

GEORGE TOWN: The Penang Water Supply Corporation (PBAPP) has assured the public that water treatment residue discharged from the Sungai Dua Water Treatment Plant into a tributary of Sungai Prai is not hazardous to humans and aquatic life.

This came after the Penang Sustainable Natural Heritage Association (Lekas) expressed concern over the handling of sludge with metal content that it feared was flowing into Sungai Prai from the plant.

PBAPP chief executive officer Datuk Jaseni Maidinsa said the main content of the residue was residual aluminium from the use of aluminium sulphate or polyaluminium chloride for the coagulation process in conventional water treatment.

He said the Sungai Dua plant was not the only one in Malaysia that discharged water treatment plant residue into rivers.

The National Water Services Commission (SPAN) had estimated that water treatment plants in Malaysia produced 5,500 metric tonnes of residue per day.

"PBAPP is working closely with the Water and Environment Ministry, SPAN and the Department of Environment in handling water treatment residue and ensuring the sustainability of Sungai Prai," Jaseni said.

On Wednesday, Lekas president Zikrulh Ismail said the association received reports that the Sungai Dua plant was operating without a sludge lagoon and that checks could not find a sludge lagoon.

He said a report on the Network on Water Technology in Asia Pacific claimed the Sungai Dua plant "does not treat the back-

wash water and sludge generated. Backwash water from filters and sludge produced from sedimentation, DAF and Clarifier systems is channelled into Sungai Prai without any treatment".

Jaseni said the non-hazardous nature of water treatment plant residue was backed up by the following facts:

IN Kyoto, Japan, residue is recycled as "fill material" for children's playgrounds;

IN the Netherlands, residue is recycled as fertiliser and construction material; and

IN Penang, PBAPP has won awards for completing a research project to produce bricks from water treatment plant residue.

Jaseni said the Sungai Dua plant had been operating since 1973, and in the past 48 years, there had been no reports of water contamination in Sungai Prai from residue.

"If water treatment plant residue is hazardous to the aquatic environment, there would be no fish in Sungai Prai."

In a parliamentary reply to Tanjong member of parliament Chow Kon Yeow in November last year, the Water and Environment Ministry had said water treatment plant residue would eventually be regulated by SPAN under the National Water Services Industry Act 2006 (WSIA).

"The ministry stated that it was amending the WSIA to include water treatment plant residue as part of the water supply system, and that its regulation would include provisions for the setting up of common facilities to treat, recycle and/or dispose of water treatment plant residue properly in Malaysia," Jaseni said.

Heartiest Congratulations



To
His Excellency

Tun Dato' Seri Utama Ahmad Fuzi bin Haji Abdul Razak

S.M.N., P.S.M., D.U.R.N., D.S.L.J. (Brunel), D.M.P.N., D.S.P.N., J.S.M., A.M.N.

On receiving the instrument of appointment and swearing in to office as

The 8th Yang di-Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang

By
His Majesty

Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong XVI
Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah
ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah

On 1st May 2021 (19 Ramadan 1442H)

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