

15 JUN 1996

Artiste-Remarks

REMARK "WHO'S MAHATHIR?" LANDED SINGER IN TROUBLE

SHAH ALAM, June 15 (Bernama) -- The authorities, taking exception to remarks by artiste M.Nasir regarding Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, have decided to black out his songs and films from radio and television stations.

The move, starting tomorrow, also includes TV appearances of the singer cum actor who hails from Singapore.

Deputy Information Minister Datuk Sulaiman Mohamed, speaking at the launching of Setia gathering and Information Department sportsmeet at Stadium ITM here today, said M.Nasir was being rude not only to the Prime Minister but to the people.

The artiste was reported to have made the remarks "Who's Mahathir?" to a group of journalists during a rehearsal of a poetry recital organised by Utusan Malaysia at Matic in Jalan Ampang here recently.

He said that following its investigations the Information Ministry decided to impose a black out on all M.Nasir's songs as well as films he acted from radio and television stations.

"He has become arrogant and rude .. he becomes popular because we provide him the avenues and opportunities," he said.

Sulaiman said Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat was very annoyed when informed of the matter and would make an announcement on it on his return from overseas tomorrow.

Asked whether the directive included private radio and television stations, Sulaiman said, "They have two choices, the artiste or their broacasting licence."

He said M.Nasir had also never denied making the remarks and the ministry was convinced that the reporters reported what was said to them.

-- BERNAMA

MNY MTA ABG