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Suleiman-Nasir

NASIR CAN SUE MEDIA IF HE IS MISQUOTED

KUALA LUMPUR, June 16 (Bernama) -- Artiste M. Nasir can sue the media if he feels that he has been misquoted over his remark belittling Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Suleiman Mohamed said today.

"If Nasir is dissatisfied with the news report or feels he has been misquoted, he can always sue the newspapers," he told reporters when commenting on Nasir's denial on the remark over TV3 last night.

Asked whether the ministry referred to Nasir over his remark before banning his songs and films from radio and television stations, he said it was not necessary to consult him as all the newspapers have reported his derogatory remark on Dr Mahathir.

He said the ban was entirely based on media reports.

The Singapore-born artiste was reported to have made the remark "Siapa Mahathir?" (who's Mahathir?) to a group of journalists during a rehearsal of a poetry recital organised by Utusan Melayu at Malaysia Tourist Information Centre (Matic) at Jalan Ampang recently.

Nasir was reported to have made the remark after being asked to be punctual for rehearsals as the Prime Minister was the guest of honour at the function.

In SHAH ALAM, Selangor Umno Youth asked the state government to bar Nasir from staging shows in the state to back the ban on his songs and films.

State Umno Youth leader Datuk Abdul Fatah Iskandar said the action was necessary to serve as a lesson to others from belittling the country's leaders.

"Dr Mahathir has brought a lot of progress to the country being enjoyed by the people including the singer himself...even if he is not thankful to Dr Mahathir, don't belittle him," he told reporters today.

He said the people would welcome the ministry's decision as Malaysia was not lacking in capable and talented artistes to be promoted by radio and television stations.

He said such a derogatory remark on Dr Mahathir, who is well-known worldwide, should not have come from a singer as it would tarnish the image of local artistes. -- BERNAMA

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