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Mohamed-Slander

REPORT THAT I WAS SACKED SLANDEROUS, SAYS MOHAMED

BANGI, Dec 22 (Bernama) -- Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today the foreign media report that he has been sacked as Umno secretary-general as inaccurate and slanderous.

"It is unfair, inaccurate and slanderous to say that I was sacked as Umno secretary-general after the party's general assembly when the true situation was not reported," he said with opening a cartoon drawing workshop here.

He said that besides the fact that there was no sacking, there were several untruths and contradictions in the article.

"This is the attitude of the stereotype western media," he said, adding that the western media, which had many readers interested in Malaysia, should report only the truth.

On Nov 28, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the appointment of Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik as the new umno secretary-general, replacing Mohamed who had held the post since December 1990.

He said Time Magazine's Dec 9 issue which published a report on Malaysia with emphasis on the prime minister's success was a start towards fairer reporting on Malaysia.

Speaking to reporters later, he said the government intended to have its own news channel for satellite television and radio to facilitate it to answer to and clarify any issue raised by the western media.

He said Measat Broadcast had expressed its agreement to try to allocate 30 minutes or an hour for special programmes on Malaysia over several satellite television stations.

"With our own news channel through satellite television, Malaysia can channel accurate news besides expressing the government's stand on any any issue," he said.

Mohamed also said that RTM was working to replace violent imported cartoon programmes with local productions which suited local values.

The cartoon drawing workshop organised by the International Media Studies Centre and conducted by cartoonists Zoy and Juragan was attended by 30 children.

-- BERNAMA

NHD AKD JK