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Pas denies selling Harakah to the public

ALOR STAR, Mon. - Pas has denied selling Harakah, its official newspaper, to the public and contended that it is only being circulated to members.

Its president Fadzil Noor said the party should not be held responsible if the newspapers were being sold publicly.

"If the newspapers are sold publicly, it is not on the party's directive ... it is the fault of the vendors who were appointed by the publisher."

Fadzil said the party had issued several reminders to the vendors to sell the newspapers only to its members.

"Besides prohibiting the vendors from selling the papers to non-members, we have also asked them not to display the newspapers," he told reporters at his house.

Fadzil also said the front page of the newspaper stated clearly that it was strictly for members.

He also claimed that Pas circulated about 40,000 copies of Harakah weekly, which was 10 per cent of its total number of members.

Yesterday, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said at the Umno general assembly in Kuala Lumpur he agreed to a suggestion that Harakah be banned because of its slanderous and instigative contents.

Harakah, whose permit only allows it to be circulated internally, had been banned from being sold in the streets but this was disregarded.

Dr Mahathir said the Government would not allow Harakah to be sold to the public any more.

In Kota Baru, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said Pas would apply for permit to enable the party to sell Harakah to the public.

"If we do not have the permit, we will apply for it. When we do (apply for the permit), then the Federal Government should give it to us," he added.

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