

25 NOV 1998

Assembly-BN (N.Sembilan)

CHARACTER ASSASINATION BEING USED TO WEAKEN BN

SEREMBAN, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- Certain groups out to weaken the the Barisan Nasional (BN) government are resorting to character assassination by accusing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as being power crazy and a dictator, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad said.

He said they were hoping that when the Prime Minister's image dropped, Umno would become weak and subsequently the BN government would also be weakened and toppled.

When a split occurred in Umno, they would then put the blame on the Prime Minister, he said when winding up the debate on the motion of thanks for the royal address by the Acting Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan when officiating the State Assembly sitting on Monday.

Mohd Isa said it was crucial that Umno members were convinced that the measures taken by the party were correct because it was difficult to brief others if the members themselves were not 100 per cent convinced.

He also admitted that air and river pollution were detected in the Nilai area caused by factories there which were not controlling the emission of smoke and release of waste water.

Action was taken against several companies, and the Department of Environment (DOE) had been asked to step up supervision on the factories there, he said.

State Exco for Public Amenities Datuk Darus Salim Bulin, when winding up the debate on matters pertaining to his portfolio, said the privatisation of the state's Water Supply Department from January hoped to reduce wastage of piped water.

State Exco for Agriculture and Industry Datuk Shamsul Bahari Mat, when winding up the debate on matters pertaining to his portfolio, said the District Agriculture Committees had been asked to provide data on neglected land in their respective areas to enable padi cultivation to be carried out.

He said owners of neglected land could also lease out their land or exploit the land on a joint venture with the private sector.

-- BERNAMA

AZ AO