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Mohamed-RTM

NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE FOR NOT AIRING ANWAR'S COURT CASE AS HEADLINE NEWS

PULAU PINANG, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today the RTM staff on duty last Tuesday had no ulterior motives for not airing Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's court case as one of the top stories in their TV news.

He said it was the ministry's responsibility to disseminate information to the people and rejected the possibility of a sabotage by certain RTM newsroom personnel for not highlighting the court case as a headline story.

"Before a news item is aired, the staff will discuss it first. I myself don't know why the RTM newsroom did not highlight Anwar's court case as one of the top stories as it was the main story of the day," he said.

He said he held a meeting with the staff yesterday and advised them to ensure that such things did not recur in future.

The matter could be due to a misjudgement, he told reporters when asked to comment on a letter to the forum column of a local newspaper on the role of the Information Minister and RTM in disseminating information to the people.

Mohamed also said Malaysians have the wisdom to assess the news published by the foreign media and would not be easily influenced by their distorted versions.

He said the people know the actual situation in the country although the foreign media twisted the facts as though Malaysia was in serious political turmoil following the expulsion of Anwar from the government and Umno.

The foreign media had been working for a long time to destroy the country through their negative reports but their attempts failed miserably as Malaysia was still strong, stable and progressive.

" They have failed many times and we will prove to them that they will continue to fail to ruin our country," he said.

He also said his ministry would hold briefing sessions for its employees nationwide to explain Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's action to sack Anwar from the government and Umno.

He kicked off the session in Pulau Pinang today by briefing heads of departments and agencies under his ministry.

He also urged the ministry's staff not to be involved in any reform movements or participate in demonstrations to topple the government as it was against the general orders and the country's laws.

He hoped that other ministries would also hold similar briefing sessions to ensure that the government machinery functioned smoothly towards reviving the economy and bring progress to the country.

Earlier, speaking at the presentation of excellent service awards for the ministry staff in the northern region, he urged them to improve their quality of service and strive to help establish a clean, efficient and just government.

-- BERNAMA

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