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Publisher of paper summoned

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The publisher of Pas' official organ, Harakah, will be called to the Home Ministry next week to explain why the newspaper is still being sold openly.

The ministry's secretary-general, Datuk Samsudin Osman, said today they were aware the newspaper was still available on the streets although it was meant for internal distribution only.

"We have reminded the publisher several times in the past about its for members only privilege. We are going to remind them again of this requirement at the meeting next week."

On action to be taken if the publisher continued to flout the rule, Samsudin said: "We will see next week".

At the Umno general assembly last year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that action would be taken against those caught selling the newspaper.

Responding to calls from delegates that the paper be banned for its slanderous and instigative reports, Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, had said the Government had so far been lenient in not taking action against the publisher.

Despite it being meant for members only, Harakah is widely-distributed and read among others by students and government servants.

The New Straits Times conducted a random check today and found the newspaper being sold publicly in Pantai Dalam and Jalan 223 in Petaling Jaya.

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