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Shahnon-Reaction

APPROPRIATE FOR SHAHNON TO APOLOGISE

PULAU PINANG, July 3 (Bernama) -- The open apology by Prof Datuk Shahnon Ahmad to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been welcomed by several groups in Pulau Pinang.

They described Shahnon's apology as appropriate and it could help in reducing tension.

Shahnon made an open apology to Dr Mahathir last night for insulting the Prime Minister in his novel "SHIT".

Pulau Pinang Umno Information chief Datuk Zain Omar said in Islam, asking for forgiveness for a wrong doing is good and this showed Shahnon has realised his mistake.

"No one knows the real intention of Shahnon in writing the book but readers can make their own conclusions," he said when contacted here today.

He said there was nothing wrong if one were to reproach another in a constructive manner but not with the aim to humiliate.

Shahnon, a life member of PAS, in apologising said his book was not aimed at insulting and condemning Dr Mahathir personally but it was solely to criticise the policies of the present government leadership.

Pulau Pinang Writers' Association head (I) Anuar Asmadi said the apology could help reduce tension between writers and politicians.

"To forgive one another is a virtue and it reflects harmony in life," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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