

13 AUG 1999

Hamid-Documents

DOCUMENT SMUGGLERS FACE CONSEQUENCES

KOTA TINGGI, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- Individuals or parties stashing away government confidential files abroad will face the consequences, Foreign Minister Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

"All government documents belong to the government. Unless they had been declassified as non-confidential official files, stashing them away for ulterior motives is unlawful," he said.

He said this when approached by reporters on the matter after presenting saplings for orchard owners in Kampung Tersusun Tuan Seh, Tanjung Sedili here today.

Syed Hamid, who is also Kota Tinggi Member of Parliament, however declined to elaborate on the action such offenders could face.

He was commenting on a statement by Mohamad Ezam Mohd Nor, former political secretary to jailed former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim that Anwar had stashed away confidential government files abroad.

Mohamad Ezam's statement on the files made at a political rally in Perak, confirmed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's disclosure that Anwar kept government files abroad when he was in the government.

Mohamad Ezam is the youth chief of Parti Keadilan Nasional (national justice party) led by Anwar's wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

Syed Hamid said if Ezam were a responsible and loyal Malaysian citizen, he should return those files to the government.

Asked whether the Foreign Ministry would try to get the files back, Syed Hamid said this would be quite difficult as it had no idea where they were being stashed.

"They had stashed away the files to put the country in jeopardy. We suspect they had the files hidden abroad when they started lodging police reports against national leaders," he said.

Syed Hamid said he was inclined to deduce that Anwar and his supporters had enlisted outside help to achieve their political ends and that Mohamad Ezam's disclosure reinforced such conviction.

-- BERNAMA

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