

30/01/1999

Don't be influenced by rumours, poison-pen letters, public advised

KOTA BARU, Fri. - Writing poison-pen letters and spreading rumours against the Federal Government and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad were similar to the approach used by communists to create public disorder and tension in the country, Umno information chief Datuk Dr Yusof Nor said.

He advised the public not to be influenced by such letters and rumours because the contents were baseless and were aimed only at smearing the image of the country and its leadership.

"These are methods or approaches once used by the communists in character assassination and also to create fear and tension among the people," he said after a meeting with the State Umno Information committee members and Barisan Nasional Assemblymen at the State Umno headquarters last night.

Likewise, he said, quarters whom he described as the "frustrated lots" were resorting to similar tactics to disparage the reputation of government leaders.

"The accusations and negative allegations made against the Barisan Nasional Government either through the Internet or poison-pen letters only showed that those responsible are merely exploiting issues for their vested interests.

"Accusations saying that the Government has not done much for the people and is insensitive to the people's plight are unfair and baseless."

Yusof said the setting up of the independent commission of inquiry to investigate the alleged police assault on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the decision to decrease the toll rate for the Damansara-Puchong highway reflected the Federal Government's sensitivity to the people's complaints.

Citing the toll issue, he said the Government's willingness to reduce the toll rate showed its concern for the people.

Yusof added Umno had its own approach in tackling the issues being exploited by irresponsible quarters.

"Umno has established its own website and all allegations made by these quarters will be clarified by the party there."

He said it was also the responsibility of all Umno members to explain to the people on current issues.

Asked on Barisan Nasional's chance of wresting back Kelantan from the Opposition in the next general election, Yusof said it would not be difficult if the party's election machinery ran smoothly.

"The people in Kelantan will no be easily influenced by Pas should they be wise and look at the Barisan Nasional Government's track record," he said.

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