

11 JUL 1999

PAS-Pharaoh

DR M TRYING TO EMULATE PHARAOHS - FADZIL

BAGAN DATOH, July 11 (Bernama) -- PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor claims Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is trying to emulate the Pharaohs' rule by building his official residence in Putrajaya to show off to others.

"The Pharaohs are proud of their palaces, and Dr Mahathir is trying to adopt the ways of the Pharaohs in his rule," he said at a political ceramah at Parit 24, Jalan Bagan Datoh here last night.

The Pharaohs in ancient Egypt built huge palaces with rivers flowing underneath and, claimed Fadzil, Dr Mahathir had done the same thing by constructing a lake and streams around his residence.

Fadzil also alleged that Dr Mahathir was being irresponsible by building his residence "far away from the people" instead of "living together with the people."

On reports quoting him as saying that PAS would auction off Putrajaya if the party came to power, Fadzil clarified that he had only talked about auctioning the prime minister's official residence.

"I said we want to auction off the palace (official residence), not Putrajaya. Putrajaya is the government administrative centre, so why auction it... however, newspapers and Umno leaders are fond of making baseless allegations," he said.

Fadzil also claimed that the federal government was not exploring oil in Kelantan waters out of fear that the PAS-ruled state would become rich from oil royalties.

In KUALA LUMPUR, Fadzil today called on the police and the Election Commission to be fair during the general election and check attempts to obtain votes through corrupt means.

Opening a youth convention organised by PAS Youth, Fadzil said Malaysian voters should not believe the claims by the ruling party that there would be chaos in Malaysia, just like in Indonesia, should opposition parties win the general election.

Fadzil later launched a voters' charter together with the youth leaders of PAS, Parti Keadilan Nasional, DAP and Parti Rakyat Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

hj/mhi sk