

19 JUL 1999

Kelantan-Media

TV3 BARRED FROM COVERING KELANTAN ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

KOTA BAHARU, July 19 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan State Assembly became the venue for PAS assemblymen to lambast the local press for publishing what they called negative reports and untruths about their party and government.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat also joined in the criticism of the local press.

TV3 was also barred from entering Kota Darul Naim the Kelantan State Administrative Centre and covering the assembly proceedings.

TV3 was also barred from a PAS ceramah presided by party president Datuk Fadzil Noor and Nik Aziz at Pulau Chondong, Machang on June 5.

The PAS newspaper Harakah had accused TV3 of lying.

The Menteri Besar accused the local press of distorting facts with a view to "attacking" him.

He recalled that at a recent function at Universiti Utara Malaysia he had urged the university to collaborate with his government on easing the workload of women.

"I am sorry to say that the mass media reported that I had asked the university to study how women could be barred from doing work," he said.

"Since then I have been attacked continuously and the attacks only stopped when PAS came up with a news clipping of Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) once proposing that women stopped working," he said.

Nik Aziz said in view of the actions of the local media he had lost confidence in the local press and had stopped reading the newspapers.

"I say something and something else is published, I do not read the newspapers now," he said.

Kelantan State Executive Councillor for Social Development, Women's Affairs and Race Relations Hassan Muhamad also accused the local media of running down the PAS administration in Kelantan.

He also accused the media of creating confusion by making a big issue of poverty in the state.

-- BERNAMA

BD RAR AAM