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Khalil-Advertisements

ELECTION ADS IN MEDIA HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH BN

KUALA TERENGGANU, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- The election advertisements in the mainstream media asking the people to vote for the Barisan Nasional (BN) are paid for by the coalition's sympathisers, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

"The advertisements have nothing to do with Umno or the BN. It is all done by volunteers who sympathise with and support our struggle," he said.

Khalil, who is also the BN's director of election operations, said the advertisements were in the form of commercials paid for by certain sponsors and not by Umno or BN.

"Of course we thank them because they have thought up a very effective form of advertisement that focuses on the real problem in answer to issues raised by the opposition," he told reporters during a visit here to inspect the BN's election machinery.

The sponsors of the advertisements understood the message to be conveyed to the people, he said.

Since the start of the election campaign, advertisements disputing the ability of the opposition leaders and urging the people to vote for BN had been regularly feature in the print and electronic media.

The DAP lodged a police report against the BN last Sunday regarding full-page advertisements in the major newspapers which it claimed was aimed at intimidating voters and obstructing them for voting freely without force or pressure.

The party lodged the report under the Penal Code, Sedition Act and Election Offences Act. Parti Keadilan Nasional had also lodge a police report on the advertisements.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, when launching the BN manifesto recently, said the advertisements only portrayed the reality and was not aimed at frightening the people.

On BN's chances in constituencies which had been classified as grey areas, Khalil said: "There are no grey areas turning to black but there are grey areas that have become white and the BN is confident that it can win."

He said foreign independent observers following the conduct of the general election also acknowledged that BN could win.

On BN's chances in Kelantan, he said the trend in that state showed a rise in support for BN following the BN leaders' explanations that appeared to be gaining the confidence of the people in the BN's ability.

-- BERNAMA

GM JK