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Azmi-Punishment

GUIDELINE NEEDED ON PUNISHMENT FOR CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HUMILIATE LEADERS

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- A clear guideline is needed on the punishment for civil servants such as the teacher who was found to have humiliated government leaders.

Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Datuk Azmi Khalid said the guideline would provide for more severe punishment such as the dismissal of any government servant who openly humiliated government leaders such as the case of the teacher in Kedah recently.

"Personally, I feel the teacher has committed a serious offence and no other action is more appropriate than a dismissal as every civil servant must have ethics," he told reporters after closing the national-level shooting test for Rela volunteers at the Bukit Merbau Shooting Range, Ketereh here today.

Azmi said the criteria used in punishing civil servants currently were too liberal, that is transferring the officer concerned or other forms of disciplinary action.

He said there were a handful of civil servants who were taking the opportunity of the government's flexible stand all this while to oppose the government openly.

Commenting on the report in the PAS official bulletin, Harakah, he said it was time that the Home Ministry called up the Harakah management with regard to several of its reports on the government earlier.

He said the ministry was seriously studying on taking action against the PAS bulletin for putting up a caricature of Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad with the Zionist symbol.

"Many groups in the country feel that the ministry is not firm and now we are studying in detail on the action to be taken against Harakah," Azmi said.

He said the government was adopting an open stand on the action to be taken to enable society to assess for themselves the role played by Harakah which clearly had slandered the government.

Meanwhile, Rela Director-General Shafee Abu Bakar said all Rela members throughout the country would be mobilised to assist the police in maintaining order during the coming general elections.

About 200 Rela volunteers throughout the country participated in the five-day shooting test which started on Thursday.

-- BERNAMA

ZI AO