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Mustapa-Slander

GULLIBILITY CAN LEAD TO CHAOS, SAYS MUSTAPA

JELI, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- The people will be inviting chaos if they are easily taken in by false news spread by irresponsible quarters, Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today.

He said a slanderous statement could incite anger among the people leading to riots and destruction in the country.

"An irresponsible person making slander can harm 22 million people in the country," he told reporters after opening a health camp for the Jeli parliamentary constituency here.

He was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that Umno would immediately go all out to counter the slander and lies spread by opposition parties throughout the country.

Mustapa, who is an Umno Supreme Council member, said the people should be wary of the increasingly rampant slander and lies spread by the opposition as the general election approached.

"The government regrets very much that they (the opposition) are willing to spread false news in attempts to win votes, and what is more unfortunate is that some people believe them although the facts are clear," he said.

Mustapa, who is Kelantan BN vice-chairman, said Kelantan Umno and BN were used to such opposition tactics and would be stepping up efforts to counter their slander and lies.

At the ceremony, Mustapa presented scholarships worth RM530,000 from the England Optical Group to 10 students pursuing courses in ophthalmology and spectacles to 400 students, also sponsored by the company.

Earlier, Mustapa, who is Entrepreneur Development Minister, opened the Mind Development Centre of Malaysian Islamic Economic Development Foundation (YPEIM) in Bandar Baru Bukit Bunga here.

The centre, run by YPEIM staff and volunteers, is part of long-term efforts to eradicate poverty by instilling in people from all walks of life a love for knowledge through reading, discussions and information technology application.

-- BERNAMA

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