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Ibrahim-Label

IBRAHIM TAKES FROG LABEL IN STRIDE

LANGKAWI, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- UMNO Supreme Council member Datuk Ibrahim Ali today said he feels honoured to be labelled a frog if the term used by leaders of an opposition party was a way for them to release tension.

"They can also call me the Frog Prince in order for them not to get stressed, but I request that they do not attack Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he told reporters after opening the Legal Aid Bureau annual conference here.

He said the opposition should stop attacking Dr Mahathir as the Prime Minister has done a lot for the country and has done nothing wrong.

Ibrahim, the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said the opposition party leaders called him a frog as he had crossed over from Umno to the now defunct Parti Melayu Semangat 46 and back to Umno.

Ibrahim said he was not the only person to have done that as many other leaders from PAS, Gerakan and even Keadilan have changed parties.

"It is only a label. I hold no hard feelings as it is only a political statement," he said.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim said the policy address programme to counter defamation has received encouraging response.

He said five ceramahs, to give the public a true picture of the issues raised such as on the economy and Putrajaya project, has been held so far.

Ibrahim, who is also the chairman of the Umno Committee on Defamation, said the people are willing to listen to explanations by Umno and the Barisan Nasional (BN).

He said the committee had received more than 200 tape recordings of speeches with defamatory contents of which legal action is being pursued in four of the cases and police reports lodged on nine more cases.

In his speech earlier, Ibrahim said the Legal Aid Bureau should be prepared to review its objectives in order to be able to provide quality service, especially to the low income group.

Some 221,000 cases had been referred to the Legal Aid Bureau since it was set up in 1970 with 2,937 cases reported in 1998 of which 2,651 cases were settled in court and 286 cases settled out of court.

-- BERNAMA

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