

09/06/1999

Pas Youth: Payment a new form of abuse

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Pas Youth today accused the Barisan Nasional Government of abusing its position by deciding to give civil servants a RM600 special payment.

Youth chief Mahfuz Omar said the special payment announced by Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin last week had political connotations.

"Although the Government is saying the special payment was to thank civil servants for their contribution, it is actually to buy their souls so that they would continue to vote for the BN.

"To us (Pas Youth), we view this (special payment) as a new form of abuse of public funds, which are aimed at protecting the political interests of the BN leaders," he said in a statement.

He also described as "politically-motivated" the recent announcement by Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak that college-trained teachers would receive higher salaries when their certificates are upgraded to diplomas.

"The Government has a hidden agenda for agreeing to increase teachers' salaries especially when the general election was near."

Mahfuz further alleged that Government leaders had misused public money in the Employees Provident Fund and the Social Security Organisation to "look after" their cronies.

He said civil servants should be wary of the Government's tactics to fish for votes.

In Kota Baru, Kelantan Pas Youth chief Takiyuddin Hassan said the party would not allow foreign elements to influence the country's politics.

"It is the politics of our country, so it is us (Malaysians) who will decide.

"Pas, like Umno, will not allow manipulation by foreign quarters to interfere in the (coming) election and will protect the country's image and integrity."

Takiyuddin said this in response to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that the next general election would be the dirtiest yet as the opposition would use all kinds of threats and instigation aided by foreign manipulators and foreign media.

(END)