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Pas president criticised for `mute satan' remark

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor was soundly criticised today for calling several Umno leaders syaitan bisu (mute satans) for allegedly failing to speak up to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, one of those singled out by Fadzil, said Umno leaders had their own way of doing things and some of these (things) may not be publicised.

Umno leaders, he added, may not go around "screaming" about what they do but they are not mute satans.

"The important thing is we do things effectively," he said after officiating at the southern region Islamic schools co-curriculum ceremony at Sekolah Kebangsaan Batu Pekaka at Jalan Kuala Ketil near Baling.

Yesterday, Fadzil had said in Kangar the mute satans were Abdul Hamid, Datuk Dr Yusof Nor, Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and Melor State Assemblyman Datuk Zainal Abidin Kadir, leaders known for their Islamic credentials.

In Kuala Terengganu, Yusof said Pas should not undermine the ulamak in Umno and label them mute satans just because they "are not dancing to Pas' tune".

Yusof, who is Umno information chief, said the allegation by Fadzil was baseless because the Pas leader was not present when the so-called Umno ulamak met with Dr Mahathir.

"How can he (Fadzil) know whether we have not spoken up to the Prime Minister on certain issues?" he asked, adding that Dr Mahathir was always open to opinions during meetings.

He said Pas leaders only knew how to find fault with the Government and were bereft of ideas to develop the country.

"The ulamak have been involved in making decisions on the formation of several institutions including Tabung Haji and Takaful Islam," he added.

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