

29/08/1999

People shocked by profanities at Pas talk

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PADANG BESAR, Sat. - A non-Muslim Pas supporter took to the party's platform at a ceramah last night to accuse Umno of being un-Islamic while ridiculing the Prime Minister.

Barisan Nasional leaders and the public in Perlis have reacted with indignation over the speech made by Chong Thian Teik in Jejawi.

Chong, who claimed to be a member of the Perlis Siamese community, is a regular writer for the Pas organ Harakah and is better known by his pen-name "Tok Misai" or "Mat Sabu Siam".

He used profanities to drive home his point at the function which was also attended by women and children. Among other things, he called Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad a tong tahi (a bucket of faeces) and that if Pas won the election he would sodomise the Prime Minister.

"You are all Muslims and should vote Pas because Umno is not Muslim."

Those contacted for comment expressed their disbelief and disgust that Pas had allowed someone who was not a Muslim to make such a speech.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said he was shocked that Pas had gone to the extent of inviting a non-Muslim to ridicule and question the faith of people from their own religion to get support.

"As if it was not enough for their leaders to accuse us of being kafir (infidel), now they even use a non-Muslim to go on their stage to do the same."

An infuriated Shahidan said he would study the tape recordings of the speech to assess possible legal actions which could be taken against Pas and Chong.

Titi Tinggi State Assemblyman Loh Yoon Foo said Pas was getting desperate and was willing to use "increasingly dirty tactics" to win the election.

"This is a very irresponsible act as statements such as this can jeopardise racial harmony and should not be uttered by anybody, especially a non-Muslim."

Arau resident Maimunah Kassim called the New Straits Times office in Kangar to say she had attended the function with her husband but left early as they were disgusted with the profanities used by Chong.

"To express dissatisfaction is one thing, but to use dirty language to ridicule the religion of others is something no one should tolerate, particularly Pas leaders who claim themselves to be Islamic fighters."

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