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Ibrahim-Internet

REFORMASI WEBSITE BIGGEST PERPETRATOR OF LIES, SAYS IBRAHIM

KOTA BAHARU, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- The "reformasi" website is the biggest manufacturer of lies, and this situation can create disorder in the country, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali said today.

He said the website, which now has 1,800 articles, had been churning out slander against leaders of the government, Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN).

"The website only hosts articles running down the country's leaders, and obviously it is capable of causing disharmony," he told a press conference at the Kelantan Federal Development Department here.

Ibrahim said the Umno Committee on Defamation would investigate this matter further to identify the culprits.

It was a serious offence to publish and distribute articles that can spark chaos, said Ibrahim who heads the committee.

"This week alone there were 98 (new) articles compared to 137 articles critical of the government last week, and we find that the number is decreasing," he said.

He also said the committee had received 205 tape recordings of speeches of opposition leaders but action could not be taken on 163 of them for certain reasons.

Umno's panel of lawyers was studying 31 tapes for possible legal action against the speakers while 11 had yet to be handed to the panel, he said.

Ibrahim also urged the police to speed up investigation against the Kelantan Menteri Besar's press secretary Wan Ismail Wan Jusoh for his statement which allegedly amounted to contempt of the monarchy.

"The investigation should be expedited as it is clear that Wan Ismail's speech is contemptuous of the Sultan of Kelantan because according to the Constitution, the institution of rulers cannot be touched on or belittled," he said.

Ibrahim said PAS should state its stand on the issue rather than placing the blame squarely on Wan Ismail.

He also said the last-minute response to the padi fertiliser subsidy verification exercise was very encouraging before registration closed yesterday.

Verification would be conducted within a month to enable farmers to get their subsidies, he said.

Ibrahim also said Malaysia would host the 13th Commonwealth Conference on Law from Sept 13-16, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was scheduled to open it.

"The response to the conference is very encouraging," he said.

The Bar Council is organising the conference with the support of the government.

-- BERNAMA

ZI YBY