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Najib-Pharaoh

REJECT LEADERS WHO MAKE EXTREMIST STATEMENTS, SAYS NAJIB

PETALING JAYA, July 12 (Bernama) -- Umno vice president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today urged the people to reject political leaders who make extremist statements such as the accusation that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was emulating the Pharaohs by building his official residence in Putrajaya for show.

"The most effective way of teaching them a lesson is for the people to reject the party of leader making such statements," he told reporters when commenting on the allegation by PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor yesterday.

Najib, who is also Education Minister, said this after witnessing the signing of the memorandum of understanding on the implementation of the matriculation programme between the Education Ministry and 18 Private Institutions of Higher Learning (IPTS), here.

According to him, it was now the season for the opposition parties to make all kinds of allegations against Umno and its leaders.

"They say we are infidels, (we) waste the peoples' money and so on," he said, describing the allegations as too extreme and irresponsible.

Asked on the directive to assassinate leaders contained in cassettes which were reported to be distributed by certain groups in schools, Najib believed that Malaysians did not accept political violence including political assassination.

He said political violence was not part of the culture or history of this country.

Yesterday, Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed claimed that his name was also included among the leaders ordered for assassination and described the directive and the slanders and criticism against the Sultan of Kelantan which was mentioned in the cassette as an act of extremism.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is also a target in such threats of assassination.

Meanwhile in PEKAN, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Adnan Yaakob said Fadzil should first make a comparison between the traits of the Pharaohs and that of Dr Mahathir before accusing the prime minister of being a Pharaoh.

He claimed that Fadzil actually did not understand the religion because he failed to make a comparison before hand apart from speaking without thinking.

"Does Dr Mahathir have the traits of the Pharaohs that is claiming to be God, and secondly being cruel and killing new-born infants?" asked Adnan who is also Pahang Umno information chief.

On the statement by Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) deputy president Dr Chandra Muzaffar that the opposition would pay a special housewife allowance if they came to power, Adnan said the allowance could be paid if the husband was not paid any salary.

-- BERNAMA

ROS AO