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Mohamed-Shahnon

SHAHNON'S NOVEL IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, SAYS MOHAMED RAHMAT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 21 (Bernama) -- Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said a novel written by National Laureate Datuk Prof Shahnon Ahmad is politically motivated as it contains many vulgar words aimed at national leaders.

"I think it is politically motivated as the author himself is a member of the opposition party and he obviously wants to use his position as a professor and National Laureate using his writing skill to influence and incite the people against national leaders," he said.

The Home Ministry must study the contents of the novel immediately and take appropriate action if the novel clearly had bad intention, he told reporters at his office.

He disclosed this when asked to comment on the controversial 240-page novel with the titled "SHIT" on the front cover written by Shahnon.

Mohamed said he was deeply disappointed by the move taken by Shahnon in publishing the novel as it did not reflect his status as a professor and National Laureate.

He called on the people to boycott the novel as it was non-educational but was rather intended to incite the people to hate the leadership.

"Shahnon must realise that he had achieved the status of lecturer, professor and National Laureate under the present national leadership," Mohamed said.

He described Shahnon's action as being ungrateful for the benefits he had received all this while.

On the statement made by Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail through the foreign media regarding the leadership, he said her action was not for the good of the country but to paint a bad picture of Malaysia.

The foreign media only wanted to use her as a tool so that they (foreign media) could achieve their agenda to discredit Malaysia continuously so that others would continue to criticise the country, he said when asked to comment on the interview given by Dr Wan Azizah to Cable News Network (CNN) in Hong Kong recently.

In the interview, Dr Wan Azizah alleged that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would declare a state of emergency following the spate of illegal assemblies and lawlessness in Malaysia.

Mohamed described Dr Wan Azizah's action as benefiting only the foreigners who were out to weaken Malaysians and the country.

"She also said that the local media were not giving her any space. I want to stress that she is only being made use of (by foreigners) and everything that she does is of no benefit," he said.

Meanwhile, the Umno Youth movement described Dr Wan Azizah's statement in the interview as a big lie aimed at drawing sympathy from the international community at the expense of betraying her own country.

The movement's exco member, Zein Isma Ismail said that in desperation Dr Wan Azizah was prepared to do anything to build up her image as the champion for justice although she was aware that she was merely a puppet for interested groups who deliberately exploited the issue over the expulsion of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"The lie broadcast through the CNN is an irresponsible statement which is not reflective of the true situation in Malaysia. Out of desperation, Dr Wan Azizah is more eager to play with illusion and not face reality," he

said in a statement.
--BERNAMA
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