

17/09/1999

Several disappointing incidents during forum, says Ibrahim Ali

DEPUTY Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ibrahim Ali, while praising the successful conclusion of the conference, said the Government was disappointed with several incidents during the four-day forum.

He said there were attempts to smear the Government including a claim that there was no independent judiciary in the country.

Ibrahim also criticised Parti Keadilan Nasional vice-president Marina Yusof for distributing copies of an open letter which she sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the issues of the judiciary's independence and the integrity of the Chief Justice, Attorney-General and of police brutality.

Speaking after the closing ceremony yesterday, Ibrahim said the conference was able to enhance the image of Malaysia's judiciary and legal system.

"I am quite happy to say that this conference was another proof that Malaysians uphold our system of democracy and freedom of expression."

He also said that the majority of the delegates deliberated on various issues in a very professional and rational manner and discussions were of a high standard.

Malaysian Bar Council chairman R.R. Chelvarajah thanked the participants who praised the Malaysian lawyers for the approach to upholding justice.

"Many of the speakers had supported our commitment to the rule of law and independence of the Bar.

"Let me assure you that the Malaysian Bar will be ever vigilant to uphold the course of justice without regard to its own interests or that of its members, uninfluenced by fear or favour," he said.

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