

25/12/1999

Shahidan hits out at Opposition

reports on "Perlis State Assembly" by Shahrum Sayuthi
THE three Pas Perlis State Assemblymen yesterday received a dose of "political medicine" from Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim during the winding-up of the opening address by Raja Perlis Tuanku Syed Putra Jamallulail.

Hashim Jasin (Pas-Sanglang), Ahmad Ali (Pas-Guar Sanji) and Zolkharnain Abidin (Pas-Santan) were told by Shahidan of the damage done to Muslim unity by Pas' "slanderous" campaigns during the recent general election.

The Menteri Besar had, among others, asked Hashim, who is Pas State Commissioner, whether he approved the term "Mahafiraun" (the great Pharoah) used by Pas members to describe Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Hashim, who looked uncomfortable when posed with the question, declined to answer and said he was not interested in using the State Assembly as a political forum.

Shahidan nevertheless moved to another issue by expressing his disappointment at the reluctance of Pas leaders to stop their followers from labelling Umno members as kafirs (infidels).

"We are saddened because there are Pas members who said those who vote for the party could go to heaven in the afterlife while campaigning from house-to-house in Mata Ayer.

"Pas leaders may deny ever issuing such fatwa but the fact remains that they failed to stop their followers from doing such things," the Menteri Besar said.

Shahidan spent most of his two-hour speech dwelling on such issues.

(END)