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Shahnon-Apology

SHAHNON APOLOGISES TO DR MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, July 3 (Bernama) -- Prof Datuk Shahnon Ahmad made an open apology to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night for insulting the prime minister in his novel, "SHIT".

"If he (Mahathir) feels slighted and insulted, I apologise, but actually I had no intention whatsoever to insult anyone," the national literary laurette said in a ceramah in Taman Rakyat, Jalan Sultanah, here.

Shahnon, a life member of PAS, said the book was not aimed at insulting and condemning Dutuk Dr Mahathir personally but was solely to criticise the policies of the present government leadership.

Dr Mahathir had at the last Umno general assembly expressed regret that Shahnon had gone overboard in condemning him and insulting his mother in the novel.

Several parties had also slammed the author because of the crude language used in the book.

Shahnon said he did not make lucrative returns from the book as thought although "SHIT" had received overwhelming response.

He said 130,000 copies were sold but the sale of pirated copies was twice that amount.

-- BERNAMA

MN MAI JK