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State DAP threatens to burn dailies for carrying BN adverts

ALOR STAR, Thurs. - The State DAP has given newspaper editors until noon tomorrow to explain why they are running Barisan Nasional advertisements which it claims humiliate opposition leaders.

Kedah DAP chairman George John said the party would burn newspapers as a sign of protest if an explanation was not forthcoming.

"We will burn a copy of each newspaper to show we are very unhappy (about the advertisements).

"It is irresponsible journalism and we must tell them (newspaper editors)... it is not a good way of conducting yourself, especially during the general election," he told a Press conference at the State DAP office here.

Referring to New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd group editor-in-chief Datuk A. Kadir Jasin, John said he (Kadir) was the "most stupid man in Malaysia today".

"Everyone knows why Anwar (former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) is suffering from headaches.

"Satu rakyat Malaysia, Cina, Melayu, India semua tau. Cuma Straits Times punya editor tak tau... dia orang yang bodoh sekali (Everyone in Malaysia, the Chinese, Malays, Indians all know except for the New Straits Times editor... he is the most stupid person)... he is the most stupid man in Malaysia today."

According to John, the reason Anwar suffered from headaches was not because of alleged conflicting statements by Opposition leaders but because he was assaulted after he was arrested.

John said it was wrong of national newspapers with wide circulation to tarnish the image of Opposition leaders. "We are very angry but we will not create any commotion. We will remain loyal to our leaders."

Asked why he had picked on the NST in particular, John said it was because the newspaper used words that were humiliating to DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang.

John said newspapers should also not allow themselves to be used by those willing to buy such advertisements.

"All papers who carry this are not doing a service to the people, they are doing a disservice."

John claimed people had also approached him to place full page advertisements on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

"Someone told me, George John, why don't you also buy one full page advertisement and say Mahathir is an idiot or whatever?"

"However, I will not do it because it is below my dignity to call the PM an idiot although sometimes I feel like doing it," he said, adding that no editor would accept such advertisements even if he wanted to place it.