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Shahnon

SHAHNON'S RESIGNATION TAKES EFFECT IN JULY

PULAU PINANG, June 21 (Bernama) -- National Laureate Datuk Prof Shahnon Ahmad who created controversy over his latest book which contained much vulgarity and profanity, said today his resignation as lecturer at the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) takes effect in July.

He said he was now on leave prior to his resignation.

He said he had actually intended to stop lecturing since last year.

"I have long intended to retire from teaching as I am tired. I started teaching at the USM since 1973 and had retired 11 years ago," he said.

Yesterday, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Shahnon, who was widely and severely criticised for his book entitled "Shit", had tendered his letter of resignation as a lecturer on contract at the USM last month and the Education Ministry had accepted his resignation.

Shahnon's last post at the USM was as Professor Emeritus and Director of the Islamic Centre before continuing his service on contract as an Arts lecturer in the Department of Humanities at the university.

Shahnon again defended his controversial book, saying it was a political satire and that he had only "good intentions" and was merely making a political criticism as he did not agree with the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In his opening address at the Umno General Assembly on Friday, Dr Mahathir who is also Umno president expressed regret and hurt over Shahnon's book which cursed him and cast aspersion on his mother.

Several delegates who took part in the debates at the three-day assembly criticised Shahnon and asked him to apologise to Dr Mahathir and his mother for using vulgar words and profanities on the national leader in the book "Shit".

Shahnon said, however, personally he loved and respected Dr Mahathir and never intended to curse anybody in the book.

"Personally, I love Dr Mahathir and the country and that's why I came up with the criticism in a rough manner because if (I) rely on Umno members, nobody dares to censure him," he said.

In this context, he said, there was no reason for him to seek forgiveness from Dr Mahathir because he had not done any wrong on the Prime Minister and his mother.

BERNAMA

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