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Slanderers

UMNO TO TAPE-RECORD FRIDAY SERMONS TO COUNTER LIES, SAYS IBRAHIM

KOTA BAHARU, March 18 (Bernama) -- Umno will record on tape Friday sermons and speeches by slanderers against the government who now posed a threat to national security, party Supreme Council member Senator Datuk Ibrahim Ali said.

Party information officers at the various levels have been tasked with recording such inciting speeches, Ibrahim, who is also Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, told reporters here today.

"We're concerned with what they are doing as the effect of the lies they spread undermines national security. We're not taking the matter lightly," he said.

Ibrahim said this in light of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad' statement that incitement against national leaders had turned into a security problem not to be taken lightly.

Dr Mahathir said after chairing an Umno Supreme Council meeting in Kuala Lumpur last night that tapes were being circulated asking Muslims to assassinate leaders, including himself.

Ibrahim showed to reporters a tape recording, such as that referred to by the prime minister, which the deputy minister said he had obtained from a school in Kelantan.

"The speakers recorded on this tape, whom we've not been able to identify, interspersed their speeches with Quranic verses and, among others things, urged that the prime minister be assassinated." he said.

Ibrahim challenged the slanderers to be responsible enough to substantiate their allegations against national leaders so that appropriate action could be taken if there were proof.

He said also in circulation were recordings of grossly slanderous speeches by opposition leaders but the tapes were packaged with their cover jackets displaying photographs of Umno leaders.

Ibrahim said certain local weekly publications were also constantly twisting the prime minister's statements on various issues to confuse the people while at the same time these very periodicals accused the government of curbing freedom of expression.

-- BERNAMA

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