

22/07/2000

Certain activities banned

V. Anbalagan

LUMUT, Fri. - Welfare and social clubs in the civil service have been banned from organising religious talks and activities unless sanctioned by department heads.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali said today this was to prevent undesirable elements from attacking the leadership and its policies.

Abdul Halim said, in the past, any speaker was allowed to deliver talks as the aim was to instil noble values among civil servants.

"However, some irresponsible people abused their authority during such talks and workshops to attack Government leaders and its policies," he told reporters.

He was presenting the MS ISO 9001 quality management accreditation certificate to KD Pelandok, the Royal Malaysian Navy training college here.

Abdul Halim was asked to respond to a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during a special interview that there were certain people who did not like the Government's desire to inculcate Islamic values and had taken advantage to distort and spread teaching that caused hatred among civil servants.

Abdul Halim said department heads had also been asked to identify their staff's involvement in the deviationist Al-Ma'unah movement.

"They have been asked to closely monitor the activities of their subordinates believed to have links with the group. Action will be taken against them if we have sufficient proof," he said.

On the arrest of several Al-Ma'unah members who included civil servants, he said they were waiting for the police to complete their investigations into the extent of their role and activities.

Earlier in his speech Abdul Halim said, of late, there were attempts by certain groups to influence civil servants, including those from the defence forces to go against the Government.

"These groups spread lies against leaders in the hope of eroding the people's confidence in the present administration," he said.

He said these groups claimed the recent incident in Sauk was orchestrated by the army and police and such assumption was notorious and cruel.

Abdul Halim said by doing so they hoped to bring down the image of the police and army.

"We do not stage a drama (sandiwara) with people's lives," he said, adding that the security forces had a good track record in defending the nation's peace and security.

He called on soldiers to be aware of attempts to influence them with propaganda.

The college, an internationally acclaimed training school, is the first unit among the army, navy and air force to receive the accreditation.

(END)