

27 OCT 2000

Norian-Ezam

NOT REPORT LODGED, SO COPS NOT PROBING SMEAR CAMPAIGN YET, SAYS IGP

SHAH ALAM, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- The police have not started any investigation into a reportedly opposition-initiated smear campaign in the United States and Europe against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as no report has been lodged about it so far.

The Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai said today no quarters had lodged any complaint of breach of the law against Keadilan Youth chief Ezam Mohamed Nor who reportedly admitted to being involved in such a campaign.

"We'll investigate once there is a report lodged by interest group," Norian told reporters after the signing of a memorandum of understanding here on erecting standardised directional signages for the nearest police station.

A local newspaper reported last Wednesday that Ezam acknowledged publicly that he and other Keadilan colleagues were involved in such a campaign and challenged the government to prosecute them for doing so.

Ezam reportedly made the statement at a rally jointly organised by PAS and Keadilan in Batu Tiga in Tandop near Alor Setar this week.

Asked about rallies held without police permit in Selangor, Norian said the police had completed investigating eight cases and referred them to the Attorney-General's Chambers for further action.

"In certain circumstances, we've also ordered people at such gatherings to disperse. It depends on the situation," he said.

Norian also said it was premature for him to give the latest situation report relating to yesterday's blast at the Sri Ganesar Hindu temple in Jalan Pudu Lama in Kuala Lumpur as experts were still investigating.

Today's MoU which he signed, on behalf of the police, with Taitay Outdoor Media Sdn Bhd, involved erection of standardised signages which each cost between RM20,000 and RM30,000.

The deal was for five years and the first of such signages, to guide the public to the nearest police station or district police headquarters, would be erected soon.

-- BERNAMA

AZH RYN