

18 JUN 2000

Fadzil-Shahnon

SHAHNON'S ISSUE CLOSED, SAYS FADZIL

ALOR SETAR, June 18 (Bernama) -- PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor said today he considered as closed the issue over the intended resignation of Datuk Shahnon Ahmad as the Member of Parliament for Sik.

" This issue is over. It's only a trivial matter and should not be magnified. Shahnon is still the MP for Sik. He has not resigned," he said.

He said this when asked to comment on press reports today on Shahnon denying issuing a signed statement, dismissing news reports of his intended resignation due to poor health.

Shahnon, a life member of PAS, was quoted as saying that he never sent a statement titled " I Never Intended to Resign as MP For Sik" to the media offices yesterday.

Fadzil said the media should ask for his opinion on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that a Chinese or an Indian could one day be the Prime Minister of Malaysia than to continue harping on Shahnon's issue.

" Dr Mahathir's statement is merely to win the hearts of the Chinese," he said when commenting on the Prime Minister's speech at the opening of MCA's 47th General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Fadzil also declined to comment when asked on the statement by the Malaysian National News Agency (BERNAMA) Editor-in-Chief Syed Jamil Jaafar, who refuted his allegation that the agency's report on the intention of Shahnon to resign was nonsense and a lie.

Syed Jamil was reported today as saying that the Bernama report on Shahnon's intention to resign was based on information obtained from the MP himself and not anybody else.

He said it had never been the agency's practice to concoct stories.

-- BERNAMA

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