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MAF-PAS

PAS ACCUSED OF GIVING IMPORTANCE MORE TO POLITICAL AGENDA THAN UNITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- The Malay Action Front (MAF) today accused PAS leaders of giving more importance to its political agenda than Malay unity.

While expressing regret over the postponement of the Malay Unity talks between Umno and PAS, it said it had expected that the talks would not materialise.

"The MAF is not the least surprised with the conditions set by PAS for the talks...So where is this spirit of brotherhood in Islam?" asked MAF Policy Panel Chairman Datuk Mazlan Harun, while reading from a statement after a three-hour meeting at the MAF secretariat here.

Mazlan also questioned whether the issues of oil royalty and the publication of PAS official organ, Harakah, twice a week were more important than Islam and unity.

"MAF is of the view right from the start that Malay unity can be established through the proven platform of Umno," he said.

Mazlan said the split with the Malays was also due to some extent to the Anwar Ibrahim issue which was exploited by PAS and Keadilan.

He said that like the case of the former Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Harun Idris, the Anwar issue must be confined to the process of law and this must be respected by all parties.

On the Anwar issue, MAF Coordinator Datuk Ibrahim Ali said several writers had cashed in on the issue, selling 10,000 to 20,000 copies of their books.

He said Umno was not the problem in the Malay Unity talks.

On the comment by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the MAF had further divided Malays into four groups -- Umno, PAS, Keadilan and MAF -- Ibrahim said the press conference was only about the Umno-PAS talks.

-- BERNAMA

SHS RV ABG