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Parliament-RTM

RTM NEWS BASED ON FACTS THOUGH PRO-GOVT, SAYS ZAINUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, April 25 (Bernama) -- RTM news are based on facts although they are biased towards the government, Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Zainuddin Maidin told the Dewan Rakyat today.

News aired by RTM are accurate information and not concocted stories as alleged by the opposition, he said when replying to Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis (BN-Rompin) who wanted to know efforts made by RTM to channel accurate information to people in rural areas, especially in Kelantan and Terengganu.

Zainuddin also denied claims that RTM does not air comments by the opposition.

"In efforts to provide accurate information to the people, comments from the opposition were also included. Not only RTM, in fact, Utusan Malaysia also published their comments," he said.

Among the comments shown by RTM were allegations by Mahfuz Omar (PAS-Pokok Sena) that Umno stole timber, Deputy Kelantan Menteri Besar (Haji Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman) praising Putrajaya and comments by PAS Spiritual Adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wanted to discuss with PAS because "God has opened his heart to be grateful."

The negative statement by Datuk Dr Hassan Mohd Ali (PAS-Parit Buntar) on former Rector of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Tan Sri Muhammad Abdul Rauf, was also aired by RTM, he said.

"What we show is indeed the facts. We'd never cheated. If we're said to be bias, Yes, I accept. Indeed, we're bias towards our government. So what?" Zainuddin said.

Opposition MPs, including Dr Hassan, tried to object to his statement.

Zainuddin, however, said Dr Hassan's adverse comments on the former IIUM rector should be avoided.

He said what is being done by RTM and Utusan Malaysia had actually helped in providing accurate information to the people, particularly in rural areas.

"What we're actually doing is telling the truth and denying lies," he said.

Earlier, replying to Lim Bee Kau (BN-Padang Serai) on beaming special telecast to enable the government to provide accurate information to the people, Zainuddin said RTM had started the approach through Gemilang Malaysia and Global programmes.

He hoped the programmes, in the form of talk show, conducted in Bahasa Malaysia and English would be a forum for discussion on current issues and latest developments in the country.

-- BERNAMA

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