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Zainuddin-Rustam

RUSTAM BELITTLES USMAN, SAYS ZAINUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said Parti Rakyat Malaysia vice-president Rustam A.Sani has belittled national laureate Datuk Usman Awang by suggesting that he (Zainuddin) influenced Usman into accepting a special award from the Prime Minister.

Zainuddin said Rustam also came to his own judgment and not the public's in deducing that journalism laureate Tan Sri A Samad Ismail and veteran journalist Datuk Mazlan Nordin had only downgraded themselves by working for the New Straits Times and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS).

"Rustam Sani looks down on these institutions based on his own assessment and not that of the public, out of narrow-minded party politics. It is regrettable that Rustam Sani lost his intellectuality because of this.

"It is unfair for him (Rustam) to claim that close friends of the three personalities join him in berating them as they are seen to be on the side not favoured by him," Zainuddin said in a statement through Bernama to rebut Rustam's allegations in the latest issue of Harakah, the official organ of PAS.

Rustam in a statement to Harakah, said Zainuddin had brought down Usman's reputation by influencing the laureate into accepting a special award presented by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently.

Rustam charged that Zainuddin did so to counter the influence of another national laureate and opposition Member of Parliament Datuk Shanon Ahmad, who, according to Rustam, won wide literary acclaim with his novel "SHIT".

Rustam also claimed that Samad and Mazlan's reputation and respect from among friends suffered for similarly doing at the New Straits Times and ISIS what Zainuddin did.

Zainuddin said what he did was to get ailing Usman honoured during his lifetime for the substantial contribution to the Utusan Melayu Group which also accorded Samad similar recognition earlier.

Zainuddin was formerly Utusan Melayu Group editor-in-chief and editorial adviser.

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