

'Many Pas leaders share PM's views on ulama'

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PASIR MAS, Fri. — Many Pas leaders quietly support and share the view of Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the *ulama*, said Umno information chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

He said the editorial in the English section of the party's official publication, *Harakah*, which criticised some *ulama* showed that there are Pas members who are uneasy with the *ulama*.

"This is a bitter criticism of them (*ulama*). There are some *ulama* in Malaysia who feel they have done no bad deeds (*maksum*)," he said after a *ceramah* at Sekolah Menengah Tiang Chandi, Repek in Rantau Panjang here last night.

He was commenting on an editorial in the latest issue of *Harakah*

which criticised such *ulama* for promoting the misconception that they should not be criticised.

Mustapa said Umno's views on the matter were apt and this was shared by some opposition members.

"Not all Al-Azhar University graduates and *ustaz* and Pas leaders are *ulama*. In fact, some political *ulama* have vested interests, are biased and issue *fatwa* that are against Islam," he said.

Earlier in his speech at the *ceramah*, which was attended by about 1,500 people, Mustapa said the Prime Minister was not against *ulama* but political *ulama*, who manipulate the religion.

"Dr Mahathir is angry with such *ulama* who make empty promises."