

Fadzil: RTM on Pas smear campaign

Nst 14 MAR 2002

OPPOSITION Leader Datuk Fadzil Noor (Pas-Pendang) labelled Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Zainuddin Maidin as people with no morals.

He alleged that Khalil and Zainuddin, using Radio Televisyen Malaysia, masterminded a smear campaign against Pas and Ibrahim Libya by airing video clips of the 17-year-old Memali incident.

"Ibrahim is dead ... what kind of person are you to smear the good name of someone who is already dead. You have no morals," he said, angrily pointing at Khalil's and Zainuddin's empty seats.

Debating the Royal Address, Fadzil, who was visibly upset over the airing of the clips, claimed that Khalil designed the Pas-bashing campaign to cover up his wrongdoings when he was Pahang Men-

teri Besar.

In the case of Zainuddin, Fadzil said he was trying to get back into the good books of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Fadzil alleged that Zainuddin, whom he said was sacked from his top editorial post in Utusan Melayu after criticising the Prime Minister over the use of Bahasa Malaysia, was trying to please Dr Mahathir.

Fadzil caused an uproar when he "cleared" Deputy Information Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus of playing any part in the campaign initiated by Khalil and Zainuddin.

Gesturing at Khalid, he said: "*Yang ini bagus, tak macam dua orang itu* (This person is innocent, not like those two)."

Khalid later stood up and told Fadzil that his attempt to drive a wedge between him and his Minister and the Parliamentary Secre-

tary would not succeed.

"At the ministry, all of us are responsible. Please don't try to pit me against Khalil or Zainuddin," he said.

Earlier, speaking during the morning session, Fadzil said the Government had accused Muslim extremists of interpreting *jihād* wrongly, but had failed to define its true meaning.

He said the Government had limited its definition of *jihād* to economic struggle.

He said economy was not the only facet of life and that the Government's interpretation was thus similar to Karl Marx's communist ideology.

Fadzil said true *jihād* encompassed overcoming desire, opposing Satan, cruelty, vices and the enemies of an Islamic state.