

Info blitz no t e r PAS lies

STAR 17 AUG 2002

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KUALA TERENGGANU: The Government will go on an extensive information blitz to counter accusations by PAS which it considers slanderous on a number of issues that had affected the people.

"Once we have educated the people and change their way of thinking they would not swallow the lies fed to them by PAS leaders.

"Then, we will consider taking actions against them," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir hlohamad told reporters after opening the Terengganu Barisan Nasional convention here yesterday.

"Until then, we cannot use the lam to stop these people for their lies and slanderous statements because people would say that they (PAS leaders) were right and that is why we have to take action against them," the Prime Minister said, in response to a question whether the Government was planning to act against several PAS leaders, including using the Internal Security Act, for their alleged slanderous statements.

The Barisan chairman said at the moment the

Government could not act against PAS leaders because that would create a lot of anger, especially among the Malays.

He said PAS leaders could tell the biggest of lies, slander government leaders with impunity and tell people that white was black and they would still believe them.

"Take for instance Bunyamin who claimed that I watched pornographic films with my grandson. Looking at the reactions of the mostly women supporters who were present when he said that, it was clear that they absolutely believed it," Dr Mahathir said, in reference to the alleged statement by former Bacok MP Bunyamin.

"What kind of human being do they take me for? Yet they got away with this kind of action because they have been successful in brainwashing the people by using religion," he said, adding that it was good that Radio Television Malaysia had started showing clips of *cerumah* by PAS leaders so that the people would see for themselves how far the opposition would go to make people hate the government.

On the stand-taken by the Muslim Scholars Association

(PUM) to support the statement by PAS-spiritual leader Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat on his alleged statement that "God is a gangster", the Prime Minister said:

"I never considered PUM an association of ulama. What qualifies its members to call themselves ulama? If they are willing to make decisions

based on political interest rather than the truth according to Islam, they are far from being *ulama*."

Dr Mahathir said Barisan has a very good chance of wresting Terengganu from PAS in the next general election.

Addressing the convention at SK Tun Telanai, near

Marang, Dr Mahathir warned PAS leaders not to rejoice over his pending retirement next year as he will continue to traverse the country to help promote the cause of Umno and Barisan Nasional.

He considered it his "religious obligation" to expose the lies of PAS leaders.