

02 FEB 2002

Mustapa-Laws

NEED FOR BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS, SAYS MUSTAPA

PASIR MAS, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- There is an urgent need for the government to step up the implementation of existing laws and regulations, National Economic Action Council (NEAC) executive director Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today.

He said laws aimed at protecting the people and country from various threats must be better enforced before the situation became worse.

"We have laws and regulations but sometimes we don't implement them," he told reporters after attending an Aidilfitri reception at the residence of Rantau Panjang Umno division chief Mohd Zain Ismail here.

Mustapa said this when asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that the government planned to formulate a standardised curriculum for religious schools in the country to ensure they did not spread deviant teachings.

Expressing support for the plan, Mustapa said it was aimed at preventing the country from being destroyed by the actions of certain quarters.

He said even existing laws and regulations were often not implemented properly resulting in various problems.

"Like the illegal immigrants problem...previously there were only Indonesian illegals but now we have African immigrants as well," he said.

Mustapa was referring to the arrests in Kuala Lumpur yesterday of 200 people from six African countries in an operation against Africans without valid documents, and the subsequent escape from police custody by 149 of them.

Mustapa, who is also Umno information chief, said more opposition supporters were now keen to join Umno, especially after the US-lead military action in Afghanistan and the Barisan Nasional's victory in the Indera Kayangan by-election last month.

This was happening all over the country but most noticeably in PAS-ruled Terengganu and Kelantan, he said.

--BERNAMA

BD SK