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No grounds to label BN cruel

Azura Abas; V. Shankar Ganesh

THE Selangor State Assembly was told there were no grounds for the Opposition to label leaders from the Barisan Nasional as cruel and heartless.

Khailani Mangon (BN-Batu Laut) said the Opposition had been calling BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad inappropriate names like Maha Zalim (the Great Barbarian) and Maha Firaun (the Great Pharaoh) in their ceramah.

"Has the BN Government under the leadership of Dr Mahathir ordered those who embrace Islam to have their nails pulled out as what had happened during the reign of the Pharaoh?"

"Only if such a cruel act happens here will it be proper to say BN (leaders) are cruel and heartless," he said during the debate on the State's 2003 Budget.

He hit out at the Opposition for claiming they did not slander anyone during their ceramah.

He said the BN Government in Selangor was among the first to use the Islamic banking facilities to separate its halal (lawful) and haram (prohibited) revenues.

Khailani claimed that the Pas State Governments had yet to do the same.

Kamala Ganapathy (BN-Kota Raja) urged the Opposition to stop marring Islam by making statements like Allah was a "samseng (a thug), as it would only confuse the non-Muslims".

"As a non-Muslim, I hope the Opposition will stop smearing a beautiful religion like Islam with such remarks," she said.

She also voiced her concern over Selangor having the highest number of abuse cases among women last year.

She said Selangor recorded 855 abuse cases out of a total 3,107 reported in the country last year.

In this respect, she lauded the State Government's decision to build a refuge centre in Sabak Bernam to temporarily house the abused women.

"It will be good to have such centres in every district," she added.

She also urged the State Government to provide more job opportunities for Indian youths in the civil services in an effort to address the gangsterism issues.

Kamala claimed that one of the reasons why many Indian youths were involved in gangsterism was due to the lack of job opportunities for them.

She also urged the State Government to make it compulsory for developers to build activity halls for the senior citizens in their projects.