

07/01/2002

PM: Pointless to ask Pas to apologise

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said it was pointless asking Pas to apologise for anything it had said or done as the party was never willing to admit its faults and mistakes.

Regardless of whatever slander, lies and vulgarities they had uttered, Pas leaders had never apologised even though it was obvious that they were in the wrong.

The Prime Minister was responding to a statement by Pas secretary-general Nasharuddin Mat Isa yesterday who said that Pas was still convinced that the arms heist at two military camps in Sauk, Perak, was a sandiwara (play).

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after attending a Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house hosted by former Dewan Negara Speaker Tan Sri Abang Ahmad Urai Abang Mohideen.

Nasharuddin had said that Pas still considered the incident "staged" despite a demonstration by the Defence Ministry showing how a Mitsubishi Pajero Super Wagon, which was used by the Al-Ma'unah during the heist, could accommodate the number of weapons stolen by the group.

The demonstration was to counter a Pas claim that the vehicle could not accommodate such a large number of weapons.

Pas had rejected an invitation from the Defence Ministry to witness the demonstration as its request for a meeting with the authorities on the incident was not entertained.

"If it is true that the incident was not staged, why did they reject our request for a dialogue?" Nasharuddin asked.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had earlier asked Pas to apologise to the people for alleging that the Sauk incident was staged.

Najib had said that the trial of the Al-Ma'unah members in the High Court was carried out fairly with all relevant facts presented.

"Well, if Pas is convinced that the whole incident was a stage show, then I invite Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat to witness the hanging of Mohd Amin Mohd Razali. Let him tell Mohd Amin that it is a 'sandiwara' when he is being hanged'," said Dr Mahathir.

Mohd Amin is the leader of the Al-Ma'unah group.

He and his two right-hand men, Zahit Muslim and Jamaludin Darus, were sentenced to death for waging war against the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

On the Barisan Nasional candidate for the Indera Kayangan by-election, Dr Mahathir said it was a good choice.

Retired Chinese school headmistress and Perlis Wanita chairman Oui Ah Lan @ Ng Ah Lan, 58, was yesterday named BN candidate.

(END)