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Singapore-PAS

SINGAPORE'S STRAITS TIMES, JANE'S INTELLIGENCE, APOLOGISE TO PAS

SINGAPORE, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- Singapore's Straits Times newspaper and Jane's Intelligence Review have apologised to Malaysia's opposition party, Parti Islam SeMalaysia (PAS), over an article by the defence magazine which reported PAS has political ties with the Al-Qaeda terrorist network.

"Jane's Intelligence Review now understands that these allegations are incorrect and are happy to fully retract them at the first opportunity," its editor, Chris Aaron, said in a statement yesterday to the Sunday Times, a sister publication of Straits Times.

The magazine had also stated that the PAS headquarters "displays a poster of Osama bin Laden reflecting PAS thinking on Al-Qaeda."

The Sunday Times said Jane's Intelligence Review and the Straits Times, which reproduced the article on Jan 4, would also like to apologise to PAS for publishing the incorrect allegations.

PAS had denied the links and demanded an apology from the Straits Times.

The same article had also drawn the ire of the Malaysian government for reporting that the Sept 11 attacks in the United States could have been averted had Malaysia intercepted and arrested two suspects involved in the attack when they were in Malaysia in January last year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the country should not be made to share the blame as the two suspects had entered Malaysia as tourists.

He said American authorities itself could have nabbed the suspects who had been residing in the United States for almost a year prior to the attacks.

Surveillance tapes of the suspects in Malaysia were also passed to the Central Intelligence Agency.

-- BERNAMA

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