

12 JUL 2002

Rafidah-PAS

RAFIDAH HITS OUT AT PAS LEADERS FOR CONDONING VERBAL ABUSES

KUALA LUMPUR, July 12 (Bernama) -- International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz today expressed regret at Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat for condoning abusive language used by PAS leaders against their Umno counterparts.

Rafidah said Nik Aziz as the PAS spiritual advisor should advise the party members against throwing abuses at others as this was forbidden by religion.

She described the actions of PAS leaders playing rough politics by making wild accusations and using abusive language against Umno leaders as insulting the intelligence of voters in Pendang and Anak Bukit.

"PAS has deviated (from its struggles) if they want to survive on support from making verbal abuses, and their antics are being watched by the young generation," she told reporters when asked to comment on the statement by Nik Aziz in the local press today defending PAS leader Mohamad Sabu who had used abusive language against Umno members.

Rafidah, who is also Wanita Umno head, said such abusive language was not only unethical, it was also wrong from the religious point of view and gave a poor image of the Malays.

"Mohamad Sabu will continue to use abusive language at Umno members and leaders as long as they don't admit to the mistakes they have done to PAS," said Nik Aziz in a Malay newspaper report.

Mohamad Sabu, in an election campaign in Pendang last night, said he would continue to make personal attacks on prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other Umno leaders in his political ceramah.

In PENDANG, Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the PAS struggle was heading towards chauvinism or "assobiyah" as they were now championing the Malay rights whereas they had been championing Islam previously.

He said PAS had accused UMNO of being a chauvinistic party in the past when it was championing the special privileges of the Malays.

"Previously they said Umno was chauvinistic and they were championing a wider concept, that is Islam. I am puzzled because this is the first time PAS is heading towards chauvinism," he told a media conference after opening a consumerism seminar here.

Muhyiddin, who is also Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, said this when commenting on the issue raised by PAS in their campaign by accusing Umno of forfeiting the Malay supremacy by allocating a 10-per cent quota to non-Bumiputeras to study at Mara Junior Science Colleges (MRSMs).

"Since when has PAS championed the quota for Malays. This shows that their struggles are getting narrower and are exploiting whatever development that is taking place in the country, including playing up on racial issues and hiding behind their own weaknesses," he said.

He said the government was not sacrificing the rights of Bumiputeras although it was allocating a quota for non-Bumiputeras to enter the MRSMs.

Muhyiddin said the Malays would not lose because the number of places in MRSMs would be increased which would eventually raise the number of Malay students against the non-Malays.

-- BERNAMA

MFZ ZS MAN AO