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Zainudin-Opposition

OPPOSITION TRYING TO CONFUSE THE PEOPLE ON PM'S RETIREMENT, SAYS

ZAINUDIN

KOTA BAHARU, Dec 29 (Bernama) -- Parti Keadilan Nasional and PAS are now campaigning to confuse the people regarding Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to retire in October next year, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainudin Maidin said today.

He said that they were conducting the campaign to lend credence to their allegations.

"When Dr Mahathir retires, it will prove their malice and that they are lying. They have tainted the prime minister's announcement (on his intention to retire) which was made at the Umno general assembly last June," he said.

He was speaking to reporters upon his arrival at the Pengkalan Chepa airport here to attend a meeting with non-governmental organisations and artistes in Kelantan on efforts to revive arts and cultural activities in the state.

Zainudin said the opposition was now afraid to face the truth because Dr Mahathir's successor was a man who had shown firmness in dealing with those who deviated from democratic practices.

Dr Mahathir has named Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to succeed him.

Zainudin said: "All this while, they didn't want to believe that Dr Mahathir had had to delay his retirement because of a critical moral crisis within Umno.

"After the scandal and corruption were proven to be true, they continued to champion homosexual leaders and criminal cases."

In apparent reference to the articles of jailed Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim which often appeared in the foreign media and pro-opposition web sites, Zainudin said that never in the history of the media in Malaysia had the newspapers published the articles of prisoners or criminals.

However, he said, this had happened in Harakah, PAS' official organ, and the articles were read by the public over the past few months.

"Actually, behind the campaign to confuse the people about Dr Mahathir's decision to retire is their concern about facing a new challenge from a person who looks gentle but has convinced the people of his credibility, firmness, sense of fairness and wisdom through his actions," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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