

29 JUL 2002

Abdullah-Slanders

POLICE MUST ACT TO STOP SLANDERS AGAINST DR MAHATHIR

BUTTERWORTH, July 29 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today police must take action against a PAS speaker who slandered Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Moahamd by alleging that the Prime Minister watched pornography with his grandchildren.

He described the allegation by the speaker, Bunyamin Yaacob, a former member of parliament for Bachok, Kelantan as rude.

Abdullah said the continuous slanders by PAS against the Prime Minister showed that the party was determined to get the people to hate the national leader.

"To me, that is an allegation that is very rude," he told reporters after launching the Smart Partnership Programme in Retailing between Syarikat Evergreen Nationwide Holdings Sdn Bhd and the Malaysian Ex-servicemen's Chamber of Commerce, here.

He said this when asked to comment on the video clip of a ceramah by Bunyamin which was aired by RTM over the past few days.

Abdullah said only those who envied and did not like Dr Mahathir liked to create nonsensical stories about him.

However, he believed the number of people who respected and loved Dr Mahathir far outnumbered those who hated him.

On the amnesty for illegal immigrants which will end on Wednesday, Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, said many employers had contacted the Home Ministry to state their problems following the amnesty.

As such, he said he had directed the ministry's Secretary-General Datuk Seri Aseh Che Mat to contact the employers concerned to resolve their problems.

On the report that two Malaysian nationals had been convicted for being involved in a syndicate distributing pirated VCDs in Australia, he said the Malaysian police had been directed to contact their Australian counterpart to seek more details on the matter.

According to a report in the Herald Sun, Australian police recently detained two Malaysian nationals and seized 45,000 units of pirated DVD comprising more than 100 titles of Hollywood films.

Lynda Tan, 36 and Samuel Lim, 44, were fined RM41,600 by a court in Australia before being sent to Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

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