

18 JUN 2003

Umno-Youth (Islam)

REVOKE THE PUBLISHING PERMIT OF HARAKAH - PERLIS DELEGATE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- A Perlis Umno Youth delegate to the movement's general assembly today urged the Home Ministry to revoke the publishing permit of Harakah, the official organ of PAS, for humiliating the country's leaders on too many occasions.

Razali Che Man said the paper churned up one humiliation after another, the latest being a cartoon of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and this should be the last straw.

"This kind of humiliation cannot be allowed to go on and is beyond forgiveness. We have been lenient to them on many occasions but they continue to humiliate our leaders. If we allow this to go on, it will not be good for Muslims in this country.

"They are not following the journalistic code of ethics and guidelines laid down by the ministry. The paper deserves to be banned," he said when debating a motion of thanks to Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein at the movement's assembly, here.

Harakah, in its latest June 16-30 issue, published a two-frame cartoon, one associating "khinzir" (a pig) with the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the other associating "mahazir!" (Dr Mahathir) with public religious schools (SAR).

A Kedah Umno Youth delegate, Abdul Rahman Mahmood spoke on the involvement of PAS leaders in efforts to discredit Umno leaders and to incite the younger generation of Malays against the government, resulting in disruption in the implementation of many development projects.

He said PAS was actually envious of Umno's success and because of that tried to gain the support of the Malays by saying that Umno constitution was not based on Islam, hoping that they would not acknowledge Umno's struggle for Islam over the past 57 years.

"In reality, it is PAS which betrays the people," he said.

Abdul Rahman, who is also Padang Serai Umno Youth chief, also praised the government for addressing the SAR issue in efforts to enhance the quality of Islamic religious education in the country.

He said that because of politics, PAS was willing to let SAR students to study in an environment lacking proper facilities.

-- BERNAMA

RAR KHY ROS ABG