

21 JUN 2003

Umno-Debate (States)

STOPPING AID TO SAR AN ADVANTAGE FOR UMNO

KUALA LUMPUR, Jun 21 (Bernama) -- Stopping aid to the people's religious schools (SAR) has worked out to Umno's advantage despite the criticisms from PAS, the Umno general assembly here was told today.

The delegate from Kedah, Ahmad Kamal Saidin, said the advantage was that PAS' criticism of the move in its cermah and memoranda had opened the people's eyes to the fact that the government had been assisting the SAR all this while.

"All this while the people did not know that the government had been giving the aid since 1958. The ungrateful PAS did not relate the government's good deed but now the people know because of PAS' claims that the government had stopped the aid to close the SAR," he said.

The second advantage gained was that it showed that PAS was incapable of administering the country, he said when debating the motion on education and religion at the assembly.

"How is PAS to administer the country if it can't even pay the salary of the less than 20 SAR teachers? It shows that PAS is incapable of making its own money," he said.

Ahmad Kamal said PAS members could also be likened to the Europeans because they were also fond of disuniting the people for their own political ends.

He said the Europeans were not afraid of PAS but were scared of leaders like Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had the courage to speak up on issues.

Meanwhile, the delegate from Perlis, Azihani Ali, called on the Education Ministry to include Dr Mahathir's discourses in the school curriculum to produce a young generation with vision to face the globalised era.

She said the Education Ministry should also eradicate "anti-establishment" sentiments in institutions of higher learning while the Home Ministry should ban "Harakah", PAS' official organ, because it insulted Umno leaders.

The motion was later passed unanimously.

-- BERNAMA

MAN KHY ROS JK