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Zainuddin-Reaction

ZAINUDDIN SAYS ALLEGATIONS IN BBC SHOW DO NOT MERIT RESPONSE

KLUANG, May 15 (Bernama) -- Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said recent allegations made in a TV show by former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim did not merit any response as they were devised by the foreign media to generate controversy.

He said the foreign media provided a platform for Anwar's views in order to keep him in the public eye.

In reality, Anwar was politically bankrupt and snubbed by the people, he told reporters after opening the Kluang Umno division delegates meeting today.

Zainuddin was referring to allegations made by Anwar against former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) programme "HardTalk".

The allegations, relating to ownership of TV3 shares, had been dismissed by Dr Mahathir and the private TV station as untrue.

Zainuddin also criticised a report in the International Herald Tribune (IHT) which claimed Malaysia was becoming an extremist Islamic country.

The report, under the heading "Malaysia Struggles With Islamic Path", said Malaysian youths were being arrested by the authorities for holding hands in public.

While rejecting the report's conclusion, Zainuddin said Malaysians should be cautious in their actions so as not to be misinterpreted as extreme by the foreign media.

"This is a way of pressuring us by the foreign media and we should face it sensibly lest our actions be depicted abroad as extreme," he said.

He said the enforcement of religious requirements should bear in mind respect for individual rights and done with the cooperation of the police who were more professional in the task.

-- BERNAMA

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