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Zainuddin-Rafidah

ZAINUDDIN SAYS HE HAS NOTHING AGAINST RAFIDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, July 20 (Bernama) -- Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said he has nothing against Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz but is concerned with her disrespectful reply to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the Approved Permits (APs) issue.

"I'm not questioning who get and who don't get the APs. I regret the disrespectful way she responded to Dr Mahathir's concern about Proton," he told reporters at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here today.

Zainuddin said he believed that the International Trade and Industry Minister had hurt the feelings of Dr Mahathir and the people who loved the former Prime Minister when she replied in the press on the AP issue.

The Deputy Minister said yesterday that when he was at the KLCC and Ampang Park, he was approached by several people including the non-Malays who supported him for making the call to Rafidah.

"Someone (an Indian) said, Datuk (you) have carried out your task Datuk. I said what was it? No, no, you have said something that we wanted to say. I feel you all (journalists) have the same feelings," he said.

Zainuddin said Rafidah was a very intelligent person, very capable of doing things and nobody could deny that.

He said Rafidah had strengthened the Wanita Umno and had the potential of becoming a Prime Minister.

"I don't say that she's rude," he said.

However, he felt that Rafidah should not have answered the way she did in the press on the AP issue.

Asked whether it was proper for a Deputy Minister to tell a senior Minister to apologise in public, Zainuddin said: "No, I don't think there is anything wrong (with that) because I have no (other) interest. I don't get any AP or whatever. I just speak my mind just like she speaks her mind."

"I'm saying it professionally, as a former journalist, I don't have any hard feeling...nothing, until today and that is my stand," he said.

Zainuddin maintained that Rafidah should apologise to Dr Mahathir and regretted that she did not want to do so.

Yesterday, Rafidah told reporters that she felt there was no need to apologise on the matter.

-- BERNAMA

SYZ AFY AO