Suara Keadilan permit rejected for being 'reckless'
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Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said PKR party organ Suara Keadilan's application for a renewal of its publication permit was not considered by his ministry as the tabloid newspaper had been "irresponsible".

In a written reply to Bayan Batu MP Sim Tze Tzin, Zahid said Suara Keadilan had ignored the ministry's request for additional clarification on July 2, 2010 over a story entitled ‘Felda bankrupted' after it was deemed to have violated the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 (PPPA)

NONE"The publisher did not answer our clarification letter and instead published the letter which was categorised as 'secret' in the tabloid," the reply read.

Zahid said a police report was lodged as the act had violated the Official Secrets Act 1972.

"Following the publisher's irresponsible act, the ministry had decided not to consider the renewal application for a publication permit (by Suara Keadilan)," he said.

In another written reply to Sim, Zahid said copies of Suara Keadilan were confiscated earlier this week for it no longer has a valid permit.

As for the confiscation of DAP's The Rocket and PAS' Harakah, Zahid said this was due to violation of the conditions of its permit by putting them on sale for the public.

According to the terms of their permits, the party organs can only be circulated among party members and must be sold at party headquarters.

On Monday, it was reported that 126 copies of Suara Keadilan and Harakah were confiscated from four premises in Kuantan.

Confiscation slammed

Meanwhile, Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) condemned the confiscation and said the terms of permit imposed by the Home Ministry was against Article 10 of the federal constitution which guarantees freedom of expression.

"Party news organs serve as an important channel for opposition parties to engage with the public given that the government-controlled mainstream media is virtually inaccessible to them...," said CIJ programme officer TS Simitha.

Simitha called for the repeal of the PPPA and also called for the government to uphold its pledge to abolish the Sedition Act 1948 to enhance freedom of expression.

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