

Sarawak's white paper not meant to shackle press: DCM
Malaysiakini.com
November 06, 2010

Media organisations should not worry about the White Paper proposed by the Sarawak government to curb unhealthy political practices that could disrupt racial harmony or cause religious tension, said Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Dr George Chan today.

He said the proposed White Paper was not intended to curtail the freedom of the media in carrying out their duties.

NONESpeaking to reporters after a presentation ceremony of education bursaries by the Miri Chinese Charitable Trust Board here today, he said the paper aimed to curb actions by any parties that could be detrimental to the state.

"It is okay for you (the media) to say this is not right or that is not right but you don't have to have a campaign to make somebody to hate some others so much," he added.

The Sarawak state assembly passed a motion on Tuesday for the state government to prepare and publish the white paper which covered individuals, organisations and media to prevent the escalation of dangerous politics employed by outsiders, especially politicians.

Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah (BN-Asajaya) when tabling the motion said the proposed White Paper should not be seen as a regulation or guideline that was confined only to opposition parties but applied to all, irrespective of their political beliefs.

He said the proposed White Paper should be formulated by the state government as unhealthy trends in politics that were confined to Peninsular Malaysia had crept into the local political scene, based on the experiences in the Batang Ai and Sibul by-elections.

- Bernama

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