

**Pas Conceding Defeat Because Of Declining Support - Rais  
Bernama  
September 7, 2011**

JEMPOL, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- The waning support from the people for PAS following its deputy president hailing the communists as heroes has caused the party to concede defeat in the issue of the fight for the nation's independence which was actually done by Umno, said Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

He said anyone in Malaysia who even hinted support for the communists, would pay dearly.

"The people have not forgotten the atrocities committed by the communists during the Emergency period in which thousands of people lost their lives and were maimed," he told reporters after hosting an Aidilfitri open house here Mnoday night.

He said the violence perpetrated by the communists had a detrimental effect on the country and that no one should be raising issues to praise them.

Questioned why the government was allowing postings on the "purported struggle of the communists to free the nation of British colonialism" to be spread widely on the Internet, Rais said: "Malaysia practises freedom of speech but not to the point of sowing discord because we have laws."

He said the government was closely monitoring sentiments on communism on the Internet and for now, it was mostly being manipulated to serve the Opposition's political agenda.

Rais was commenting on the press conference held by PAS in the federal capital today where the party stated its stand on the issue.

At the press conference, its leadership stated that the party rejected communism and acknowledged that Umno fought for Malaysia's independence through peaceful means.

The controversy broke out after PAS deputy president Mohamad Sabu, better known as Mat Sabu, in a speech in Penang recently, allegedly hailed the communist terrorists who attacked the Bukit Kepong police station in Johor in the 1950s as the true freedom fighters of Malaysia.

On the Independence Day (Merdeka) and Malaysia Day celebrations, Rais said a celebration themed "Merdeka Raya" would be held in Penang on Sept 11.

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2011 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=611912>