

Friday sermon warns Malaysian Muslims against gutter politics
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 19 — Muslims were warned against gutter politics in the Friday sermon today, including spreading slander, creating fake documents and news on the Internet as they campaign for Election 2013.

The Malaysian Islamic Development Department (JAKIM) sermon, titled “Bahaya Lidah (Dangers of the Tongue)”, comes as a number of sex videos and photos allegedly starring political leaders emerged on mostly Umno websites and blogs in the run-up to the polls, the latest targeting PAS secretary-general Datuk Mustafa Ali (picture).

“As Muslims who fear Allah and believe in the afterlife, we should watch our morals and manners while campaigning. Remember, the end does not justify the means,” said the sermon uploaded onto JAKIM’s official website for use in mosques nationwide.

JAKIM specified a set of principles for campaigning, which included advising Muslim candidates against exposing and spreading their fellow adherents’ shame “in the name of truth”. It also warned Muslims against spying and trying to find others’ faults.

“Imagine, what will happen to Islam and our beloved country if the practice of slander and cussing becomes the main medium for campaigning?” asked the sermon.

PAS leaders had brushed aside the emergence of Mustafa’s alleged sex video on the Internet as probably “fake” and the “dirty tactics” of political foes ahead of Election 2013.

Mustafa has denied he was caught on any sex video, according to his lawyer, adding that the clip that has gone viral on the Internet is the work of Umno.

Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has been repeatedly linked in the past to many sex videos and pictures, including the famous recording of his alleged sex acts with a Chinese girl released by the “Datuk T trio” last year.

In the latest round of accusations, pro-Umno bloggers released pictures of a man resembling Anwar locked in a kiss with another male, and a partly released video showing him in conversation with a 19-year-old male undergraduate, who he allegedly gets intimate with later.

Anwar recently filed a RM100 million suit against pro-Umno blogger Papa Gomo for the sex video allegations, claiming the images published on the latter’s blogsite were fake and aimed at tarnishing his reputation.

Last month, PKR secretary-general Datuk Saifuddin Nasution claimed he and several other leaders were invited by agents of “Umno-BN” for a “preview” of several photographs and two yet-to-be-released sex videos — one allegedly of PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar.

Saifuddin said the agents had also warned that more videos are currently in production to incriminate other key PKR leaders, including caretaker Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim.

According to another media report, PKR deputy president Azmin Ali may also be implicated

in a video.

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