

It's our fault too, says Sarawak daily, apologising for embarrassing typo in Taib ad

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By Desmond Davidson

The advertisement which had appeared in yesterday's copy of the Utusan Sarawak. Sarawak-based daily Utusan Sarawak today ran an apology over a highly-inappropriate spelling error in a congratulatory message to former chief minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud over his appointment as the new Sarawak Yang Di-Pertua Negeri.

"It's normal human error, an innocent one and not deliberately done," explained William Chan, group editorial consultant of Sarawak Press Sdn Bhd which owns the paper, calling the slip an "inadvertent error".

He added that no "heads got rolled" for the mistake, "even though we accept responsibility".

Yesterday, the Bahasa Malaysia daily, which is helmed by Taib's youngest daughter Datuk Hanifah Hajar Taib-Alsree, ran a full-page advertisement by Taib's party, Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), with "TAHINAH" printed in large font, instead of the correct word "TAHNIAH" (Congratulations).

It is believed that PBB prepared the artwork and proofread the advertisement before sending it to the paper for publication.

"It's a PBB mistake but nonetheless we accepted responsibility (as the printer)."

Chan said the issue was not brought up at this morning's management meeting that was chaired by Hanifah.

"I guess the apology was accepted and the matter is put to rest," he added.

The advertisement was published on page 8 of the daily.

Utusan Sarawak is one of the state's oldest papers, whose editors have been sacked in the past for running stories which infuriated the Taib administration.

Taib stepped down as chief minister on February 28 to assume the post of the head of state on March 1.

In 2006, its sister paper The Sarawak Tribune was suspended for running the controversial Jyllands-Posten cartoons mocking Prophet Muhammad. The paper only hit the street again in 2010 under the name New Sarawak Tribune. – March 4, 2014.

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