

**Government Continues To Control, Monitor Circulation Of Information On Internet – Shabery Bernama**  
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KEMAMAN, July 25 (Bernama) -- The circulation of information on the internet cannot be stopped as it will continue to happen and become easily and quickly accessible from the various existing networks, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek said.

He said what the government could do was to block the information if it was found to be detrimental to national harmony and racial solidarity, such as the action taken against the Sarawak Report.

"The nature of the internet cannot be stopped. The circulation of data and information is just like a river flow that flows to the sea. If we block it here, the water will keep flowing in a different stream," he told reporters at the Aidilfitri do hosted by Kijal assemblyman Datuk Seri Ahmad Said in Teluk Kalong here today.

Shabery said the government, however, could control the distribution and circulation of incorrect information that could be harmful to the political stability and public order by using the existing laws in the country.

He said this situation differed from internet censorship implemented in several other countries, including China, which had blocked international social media services even before it became a necessity for the people.

The minister said several other countries, including Britain, which support freedom of speech, were also mulling over the possibility to ban WhatsApp service.

"Actually, social media is very useful to us for daily life, but if we cannot make proper judgement of the information, it can be detrimental to the country," he said.

At present, he said there were 15 million active Facebook users in Malaysia and it was the most used social media in the country as it was not only used to stay connected among family and friends, but also for online business purposes.

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