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Umno-Motion

UMNO MEMBERS MUST REVIVE MALAY VALUES

KUALA LUMPUR, Okt 10 (Bernama) -- Umno members must revive Malay values particularly those pertaining to respect for the elders and upholding self-respect to preserve the strength of the party.

"If we continue to respect our leaders, God willing, all delegates will adhere to the wishes of the party leadership and prevent Umno from disintegrating," said the delegate from Bentong, Pahang, Datuk Adnan Yaakob at the Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) today.

He was tabling the motion of thanks to party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his presidential address when officiating the assembly.

Adnan hoped Dr Mahathir would continue with the struggle to eliminate money politics as long as he is healthy and able and to prevent the party and race from being destroyed by undesirable elements.

"Why shouldn't we support the president if his speech this morning was aimed at preventing the party from being destroyed?" he asked.

"His action as a father is noble, and we as children should heed his advice," he said.

Adnan described the members who could be bought as those who had no quality, and he urged the members to stop the practice, otherwise it would be pointless to "cry over spilled milk."

He said the president's message was in line with the teachings of Islam.

He said the presidential address this time was more constructive, firm and bold merely to save the party and Malay race from deteriorating due to money politics.

The motion, among others, supported the president's firmness in acting to rid the party of unhealthy practices such as abuse of power, corruption and money politics in the race for position without regard for principles, values and the party's fine tradition.

It also called for the party leadership and machinery to be mobilised towards improving society through knowledge, mastery of technology, economic development and a culture to enhance the integrity of the race and nation.

In his speech seconding the motion, Datuk Mufti Shuib from Ampang Jaya, Selangor said the problem of money politics raised by the president in his speech was true, "but the action of the president in combatting the practice was even more right."

"I hope the tears shed by Dr Mahathir this morning is not wasted and I pray that he will live another thousand years to continue with his struggle in the interest of the race, religion and nation," he said.

He also praised Dr Mahathir's attitude in taking back the former president of Party Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and former members of the party into the Umno fold.

Mufti also drew the attention of delegates to the drug menace which involved many Malay youths and urged that every effort be taken to eliminate the problem.

Perlis delegate, Senator Mastika Junaidah Hussein suggested that more programmes aimed at enhancing appreciation of Islam be carried out in villages as such programmes were still lacking.

She seconded the motion saying that the young Malays should be equipped with Islamic values so that they would not be easily influenced by immoral

culture.

She also suggested that the authorities tightened enforcement at entertainment centres which carried on business beyond permitted time.

She said the growth of entertainment centres must be controlled to ensure that children were not easily influenced by immoral activities.

Kedah delegate, Datuk Badruddin Amiruldin drew the attention of the delegates to the depleting Malay Reserve Land which now stands at 680,000 hectares compared with 1.2 million hectares gazetted by the colonialists before they left the country.

He said that effective measures must be taken to preserve the existing Malay Reserve Land which had been declining due to development.

"Malay Reserve Land acquired for development should be replaced so that the size of such land can be maintained," he said in seconding the motion.

Badruddin, who normally puts the delegates in stitches with his wit and humour, kept to the serious mood prevailing in the hall when expressing his wish that Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim continue to support Dr Mahathir's leadership.

He sympathised with Dr Mahathir who had to face the problems of money politics despite repeatedly calling on members to reject the heinous practice.

"Dr Mahathir, please rest easy, don't worry, all Umno members and I will continue to give our support in combatting the disease," he assured.

Turning to Anwar, Badruddin said: "Deputy president, please sit properly in your place, otherwise you will go awry," which was greeted with laughter.

He said money politics should be curbed because Umno did not want the country's political leaders to be controlled by certain groups who had money to influence national policies for their own benefit.

He also suggested that the financial problem faced by Mara should not be exposed in the media because Malay children depended on Mara for financial assistance to pay for further studies.

Kelantan delegate, Haji Wan Zahid Wan Abdullah suggested that Umno reviewed its constitution, organisational structure, and election system, and it should investigate all complaints in the effort to eliminate money politics and abuse of power.

He said there might be weaknesses in the system for the candidates and delegates to be bold in going against party directives and as a result the use of money and the abuse of power became rampant.

Terengganu delegate, Ahmad Said criticised candidates, particularly those who were senior party leaders and delegates who demonstrated their support and shed their tears when Dr Mahathir spoke of money politics.

He said although there were some who were truly remorseful, in actual fact the majority was only "acting" because they were the ones who gave and accepted money while some even demanded money which further aggravated the problem.

Pulau Pinang delegate Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahya raised the issue of foreign workers and immigrants which caused various problems including security among local community.

He urged that a study be made to ascertain the number of workers required particularly in factories in the state to ensure that the need to bring foreign workers was based on actual shortage.

The presence of foreign workers lately had caused social problems particularly in Pulau Pinang, he said.

Dr Hilmi urged all quarters to give preference to local workers in all sectors at all times.

Perak delegate Abdul Rahman Sulaiman meanwhile assured the president that he would not be alone in his efforts to fight money politics in Umno.

He expressed confidence that Dr Mahathir would succeed in ridding the party of such problems based on his success in overcoming the constitutional crisis to reduce the powers of the Malay Rulers.

Federal Territory delegate Abu Kasim Tadin suggested that Umno set up a special commission like the Election Commission to supervise party elections at all levels.

He said with the formation of the special commission, the practice of money politics and abuse of power could be curtailed.

Abu Kasim said to ensure that there was no misunderstanding among candidates in future, a written instruction on conditions and guidelines for the contest and campaigning should be made.

Negeri Sembilan delegate Roslan Haji Kasim said it was time that Umno members realised the dangers of money politics which could destroy the religion and race as well as the nation. -- BERNAMA

WE RON AO