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Sanusi speaks of a 'crisis of mind' in the party

IF Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid's winding up speech is any indication, the problem of malicious lies spreading within the party is more serious than anybody had expected.

Considering the situation, the Kedah Umno liaison chief said it would be more appropriate to refer the problem in the party as a "crisis of the mind".

He said he had to speak on the problem as such lies and slander could bring down the leadership.

In most cases, frustrated groups would be the most vulnerable target for the perpetrators of such lies.

Recounting his own experience when he was no longer a minister after the 1995 general election, he said he was approached by a person who told him Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had been cruel to him.

"The person asked me to join him in his efforts to bring down the Prime Minister. However, there's no point talking about it now as that person is dead."

To prove how serious the problem in the party was, Sanusi spoke of a casual meeting between an Umno leader and a local Indian political leader at a hotel in Ipoh on June 4.

The Kedah Menteri Besar said he met the Indian leader the next day to discuss the proposed setting up of a medical college in Merbok, Kedah, but the latter felt that it was more important for him to relate what the Umno leader had told him.

Sanusi said the Umno man had told the Indian leader that the majority of Umno divisional leaders did not support the party president.

The Indian leader was also told that 30 MPs would ask Dr Mahathir to resign and that there was also an arrangement for Malaysian students to urge the Prime Minister to step down.

The Umno man had also told the Indian leader that a leader from a neighbouring country had telephoned a Malaysian leader requesting him to topple the Prime Minister because he was facing problems as he had been branded a crony of the Malaysian leader.

The Indian leader was also told that Dr Mahathir did not like him because he collected funds to give to his party workers and told the Indian leader to oppose Dr Mahathir.

Sanusi said he had informed the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim about it and asked them to meet the Umno leader to ask about the matter.

Saying the allegations were lies, Sanusi said the issue in Umno now was the president and his deputy.

One thing clear was that Dr Mahathir was not favoured by the West, which is anti-Islam, for being vocal.

"If they don't like the president because he is a Muslim, then they will not also like Anwar as he is a Muslim too," Sanusi said.

Denying allegations that he hated Anwar, Sanusi said: "I don't hate Anwar because he is my childhood friend ... he knows my mother and I know his. "But if he wants to bring down Dr Mahathir, he will have to see me first," he said to the applause of the delegates.

Emphasising that he would not allow anyone to humiliate Dr Mahathir, Sanusi said the transition of power in the party should be made in a proper way.

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