

18 JUN 1999

Umno-Debate (Rahim)

A DELEGATE WANTS RAHIM NOOR'S CASE BE EXPEDITED

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- A delegate to the Umno General Assembly today wanted the case of Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor who is accused of causing injury to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim be resolved before the general election.

Ridzuan Abdul Hamid of Federal Territory Umno said this was important because the opposition in particular the Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) was using the case to gain people's sympathy towards the former deputy prime minister.

"Pictures of Anwar with a black eye are posted all over the places to gain people's sympathy especially with the upcoming general election," he said when debating on the motion of thanks on the presidential address.

The High Court here has fixed Sept 20 for the trial of the former Inspector-General of Police.

Ridzuan also reminded Umno leaders and members as well as the other component parties in the Barisan Nasional (BN) of an uphill task ahead of them in the upcoming general election.

"If in the past, one can win just by putting on a `kopiah' as a BN candidate, the situation is no longer so," he said.

In this connection, Ridzuan urged all Umno members especially the Youth and Wanita to start working to strengthen the party to ensure that Umno retained its ruling power for the sake of the religion, race and country.

He said that only Umno could protect and safeguard the rights of the Malays because PAS was in cahoots with the DAP while Keadilan's struggle was not founded on the Malays' struggle with its members coming from various races.

A Perlis delegate, Azihani Ali in his speech said Perlis Umno had made a promise to win back the Arau parliamentary seat which it lost to PAS in the next general election.

The defeat to PAS in the Arau by-election was a nightmare but Perlis Umno had awakened from its sleep and would fight to regain the constituency, he said.

Azihani also criticised PAS for willing to flirt with Satan just to achieve political ambitions of its leaders.

"There's no logic...what Satan is willing to work with a party wanting to spread Islam," he said to the applause of those present.

He also took to task Anwar's wife and Keadilan president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail for making several trips overseas to bad-mouth the country.

"She met President Joseph Estrada in secret...wonder what," he said to the laughter of the delegates.

He also criticised Anwar's supports for setting up a political party just to free Anwar who is in jail for corruption.

"The hero is in jail, they're outside, wriggling in the hot sun like earthworms...they set up a party, mixing big letters with small letters to form KeADILan...which school did they learn that, tell us," he said.

Azihani said Keadilan's struggle was not based on religion, race and country but merely to set Anwar free.

A Terengganu delegate Datuk Ibrahim Awang also took to task opposition leaders for condemning the government but refusing to accept the fact that the good life they were enjoying were due to efforts of the BN government.

"The opposition should realise that they are able to live in harmony

and peace because of the development carried out by the BN government," he said.

He also hit out at PAS leaders for claiming their party as an Islamic party but was un-Islamic in their approaches and actions, causing disunity among Muslims by labelling their fellow Muslims in Umno as `kafir' (infidels).

He said PAS was willing to do anything just to achieve its political ambitions without caring for what Islam demanded.

It was PAS which practised the theory of tribal politics and tribal religion, not Umno.

A delegate from Terengganu played a tape recording of a "syair" (poem) by blind poet J.M. Aziz, praising the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir was described as "a bright star over Malaysia, lighting up the whole world."

The tape was later presented to Dr Mahathir.

--BERNAMA

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