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Umno-Debate (religion)

FADZIL NOR CRITICISED FOR BEING CLOSE TO WAN AZIZAH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- PAS president Datuk Fadzil Nor was today criticised in the Umno General Assembly here for being close to Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail, accompanying her all over the places when they are not "muhrim" (too closely related to marry).

Debating a motion on religion and social on the third day of the assembly, a Wanita Umno delegate Hajah Fatimah Ismail said Fadzil had also assured PAS members that heaven would be theirs if they succeeded in recruiting 10 Umno members to join the party.

She said that what Fadzil did was a blatant misuse of religion, just like PAS' claim of being Allah's party.

"The Wanita movement wants everyone to go all out to fight such misuse," said Fatimah.

On Wan Azizah, she said it perplexed her to think that Fadzil could be close to the wife of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, going with her all over the places to hold joint ceramahs.

"The question of pity does not arise as Wan Azizah is not his muhrim (close relative)," she said.

Since Anwar was expelled from Umno and then charged in court, Wan Azizah, who is Parti Keadilan President, was reported to be holding ceramahs all over the country with the cooperation of PAS.

Fatimah also urged the government to set up a federal Syariah action body to coordinate the implementation of Islamic Family Laws especially in divorce and alimony cases.

This was because of a backlog of cases and this had posed problems to many women in fighting for their rights, she said.

A Sabah delegate, Rimin Maidin said PAS should close all its branches in Sabah as the last state election in March showed the people had rejected the party.

"The most shameful thing for PAS is that, not only all its six candidates lost in the elections, each of them only managed to poll an average of 200 votes," he said.

He said Sabah Umno would work harder in the upcoming general election to defend Malay sovereignty and Islam.

Since Umno spread its wing to Sabah in 1994, he said the party had succeeded in restoring Malay sovereignty and Islam, being part of the party's contributions to Muslims or matters relating to Islam.

Rimin said that many Muslim government officers were also given better position under Umno when compared to Sabah under Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

Many Muslim students were also given the opportunity to further their studies within and outside the country, he said.

A Selangor delegate, Mohd Khailani Mangon said Umno members should take exception when PAS life member Datuk Shannon Ahmad cursed and `mencarut' (foul-mouthed) Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Hurting the president means hurting us, cursing at the president means cursing at us, and foul-mouthing the president means foul-mouthing us," he said.

He suggested that action be taken against those who defamed Umno and its leaders.

"Defamation is a major sin that we must fight all out or else in five or 10 years' time, the Muslims will become backward and perish," said Mohd Khailani.

He branded PAS leaders and members as "kacang lupakan kulit" or the ungrateful lot for the RM600 million humanitarian assistance given by Dr Mahathir through the federal government to the Kelantan government to resolve the water supply problem in the state.

"If PAS doesn't want to say thanks, that's all right. But don't condemn Dr Mahathir and spread lies about Umno leaders," he said.

He said that in spite of obscene words hurled at them, Umno leaders had remained patient because the Prophet too had endured the same.

A Perak delegate, Jamal Nasir Rasdi said the opposition parties should not question Umno's sincerity and determination to uphold Islam because this was clearly spelt in Article 3 of the party's constitution.

"PAS never acknowledges Umno's contributions in setting up religious schools and building mosques which they also use to spread their influence," he said.

A Pahang delegate, Redzwan Harun in agreeing with Perak delegate accused PAS of practising double standard for accepting only their leaders as ulama and not Umno leaders even though they had PhD in religion.

He said Pahang Umno hoped that the Education Ministry which is headed by an Umno man could introduce a new policy where only individuals with religious qualification should be appointed as principals of religious schools as of the 70 religious secondary schools in the country only four of them were headed by individuals with such qualification.

Abdul Wahab Din, who represented the Umno Youth, urged the Home Ministry to pay attention to books and magazines especially those which defamed Umno.

"Such books and magazines do not permit from the Home Ministry but are widely sold even at the venue of this general assembly," he said.

Among the books are on the Memali incident and a magazine entitled 'Lebamnya Mata Anwar'.

Abdul Wahad also wanted the Education Ministry to pay attention to people's religious schools which were used by an opposition party to carry out its activities.

"Some children of Umno members studying in these schools were brainwashed to hate Umno leaders," said Abdul Wahab, while urging the authorities to take over the administration of such schools if necessary.

A Kelantan delegate Md Alwi Che Ahmad said Umno members should believe that their party is better than PAS especially in the implementation and development of Islam and its laws.

The difference between Umno and PAS is like chalk and cheese with Umno formed to safeguard the interest of the religion, race and country while PAS was set up by leaders who resented Umno.

Umno had proven its ability in implementing the demands of Islam through projects such as Islamic banking and International Islamic University (IIU) while PAS only talked about it and was incapable of Islamic leadership, he said.

"PAS has failed to set up a model Islamic state after all those years in Kelantan, proving again that it can only talk but has no expertise and serious efforts to form an Islamic government," he said.

A Kedah delegate, Haji Hamlan Din said PAS tried to confuse the people by portraying itself as a party so-called championing Islam.

But in reality, many of the actions of its leaders were contrary to Islamic teachings and did not reflect the party as an Islamic party, he said.

He said PAS leaders condoned the use of foul and obscene words against other Muslims and work together with the DAP, a party which opposed the setting up of an Islamic state.

Hamlan said Umno leaders could get back at PAS if they had wanted to

but as a party which observes Islamic teachings, they did not.

The debate will continue tomorrow at 8.30am with three more speakers from Perlis, Melaka and Federal Territory.

-- BERNAMA

AKT MAI ABG