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Go to the people and win them over, leaders told

UMNO'S top leaders should also go down to the people, make them understand the party's agenda and win their hearts, said Kedah Umno representative Datuk Badruldin Amiruldin.

He said the duty to go to the villages and remote areas to explain Umno's struggle should not be left to the `gurkhas' in the party only.

"Once in a while, let (the leaders) be the `gurkhas' too," he said.

"When Umno is threatened, the president is threatened, leaders threatened... go down to the villages. Do not rely on the gurkhas."

(Senator Datuk) Ibrahim Ali, he said, has more than done his part, to the point of exhaustion.

"Tan Sri speaker too should go down," he said.

Proposing the resolution on the presidential address, Badruldin said Umno needed to get close to the younger generation to make them understand the party better.

This was because the party's agenda must be well understood by the Malays including the youth so that the dignity of the Malays could continuously be protected.

"And Umno leaders and members must give priority to the interest of the party and not that of their own," he added.

Badruldin said in Malaysia, even expectant mothers and their unborn babies already benefited from the Government. Educational institutions including universities had been established to provide good education for the young.

"But why are some children opposing us?... We need to get closer to them and make them understand," he added.

Badruldin described Umno as the goose which laid the golden eggs, adding that the consequences would be detrimental to the Malays if the party was to disintegrate.

He said Umno and the Government had succeeded in raising the dignity of the Malays, to the extent that even in China there were people studying Malay language and culture.

Dr Mahathir's books, he added, had also been translated to foreign languages including Mandarin.

This, he said, was a total contrast to the position of the Malay race during the Japanese rule, and much earlier when the country was under the Portugese.

"Do we now want the Malays to suffer?" he asked.

On the Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim issue, Badruldin described the former Deputy Prime Minister as a traitor, and Umno had to defend itself from his actions.

Badruldin said the party should thank the security forces for keeping the demonstrators at bay and the country safe following the sacking of Anwar.

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