

21/06/1999

Pas `a party of pretenders'

PAS is a party of liars and pretenders and an organisation that propagates confusion to achieve its brand of politics, Umno supreme council member Datuk Paduka Abdul Hamid Othman charged yesterday.

"Pas is devoid of a good and strong leadership and renders its members without a future.

"Islam demands, among other things, the believers' well-being is taken care of. This is not happening in Pas," he said winding up the resolution on religion.

Abdul Hamid, who is also Sik Umno division chairman, said Pas leaders have been lying to its members by claiming they are well-versed in the religion and that they have socio-economic programmes that could guarantee their future.

"Pas leaders lie because they can only talk, claiming to be religious but have no plans for the future of their members," he said.

In comparison, he said Umno and party president, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, never lied about Islam or neglected the people's well-being, he said.

Umno, always responsible to the nation, had provided the people with ample educational opportunities including ensuring jobs as part of its obligations.

Abdul Hamid had the delegates in stitches when he related an incident involving a group of villagers and an English-speaking Malay District Officer in his village in Sik, Kedah during the communist insurgency in the 50s.

The District Officer had told the villagers that the local security committee advised them, among other things, against keeping too much food and leaving their homes after dark.

He then asked the villagers if they had any concerns to raise. To which the villagers responded that they had none and that Kami tak ada apa-apa nak cakap.... Ikut sajalah keputusan komunis (we have nothing to say.... We just follow what the communists say).

Abdul Hamid explained that the villagers, who had never heard of the word `committee' before had mistaken it for communist.

(END)