

21/06/1999

Party faces big responsibility to ensure well-being of Malays

UMNO members have a big responsibility to serve the Malays who will not be able to enjoy high living standard without the party.

Johor representative Abu Bakar Ibrahim said Umno had uplifted the people's living standard, with some earning respect at international level.

Therefore, the Malays must not lose sight of the party struggle, but to remain united under Umno for continued development and prosperity.

He said if Umno lost its power, the Malays would become weak and inferior as it would not be able to serve the people effectively.

"Umno must remain in power to ensure that the future of the Malays is protected," he said when debating the economic and education resolution.

He said under the leadership of party president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's economy had improved after having gone through some problems.

For instance, the exchange control measures imposed by Malaysia had a positive impact on the economy.

"There has been a decline in interest rates since the imposition of exchange controls and this has resulted in an astonishing turnaround to the country's economy."

Malaysia's financial restructuring is ahead of schedule, as a result of a credible framework put in place by the National Economic Action Council.

There were many optimistic forecasts about the growing health of the Malaysian economy, he said.

"This shows the Government under Dr Mahathir's leadership is controlling the situation and that its policies to deal with economic problems are appropriate for the nation."

He reminded members that the road to economic recovery could be long and uneven. If the leaders failed to bring back the economy to its previous level, the people, especially those at the grassroots, would blame them for this.

This situation could lessen the people's support for the party and the Barisan Nasional Government.

Abu Bakar said Umno members must eliminate "dark horses" within the party and named Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, as a traitor for introducing measures which had an adverse effect on the lives of the people.

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