

18 JUN 1999

Umno-Motion (Speech)

UMNO MEMBERS TOLD TO DEFEND DIGNITY OF LEADERS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Umno members should rise and defend the dignity of their leaders who have been ridiculed and insulted by opposition parties, Kedah delegate Datuk Badruddin Amiruldin said.

"(Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir was challenged and his family heritage was insulted...are Umno members going to allow their leaders to be belittled and cursed?" he said when tabling the motion on the president's policy address at the Umno general assembly here today.

He said lies, whether spread through the Internet or other channels, were made up by groups that did not love their own race.

Umno members should fight such insolent acts, especially those committed by opposition parties, to protect the dignity of their leaders and party, he said.

Badruddin said there was no justification for opposition parties to attack Umno and its leaders because the party did not commit any irregularities and its struggle was for the religion, race and country.

He reminded delegates that a defeat for Umno and the BN in the next general election would mean opening the country's doors to foreign powers and the Jews.

"We (Umno members) should be more aggressive and rise to defend our country (from this threat)," he said.

Badruddin also urged the Malays not to forget history because it served as an important lesson for their struggle.

According to him, the Malay race was almost wiped out 53 years ago because the Malayan Union was mooted with the aim to destroy them.

"From a race that was wandering aimlessly, the Malays are now living comfortably as a result of Umno's struggle.

"Do we want this race to drift along, if we continue fighting among ourselves?" he said.

Badruddin said the Malays should be aware of the fate and plight that befell other Muslims, like those in Bosnia and Kosovo.

"Once it happened (like in Bosnia and Kosovo), we would have no more power (in our hands)," he said.

On the pact by opposition parties, he said they joined forces merely to fight for their own interests.

-- BERNAMA

SBJ NAK YBY