

11/05/2000

`Getek' a wake-up call to party members

THE book Getek (meaning displeasure) is an extension of Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's "wake-up" call for Umno members to conduct soul-searching, its author Datuk Seri Megat Junid Megat Ayob said.

"I want them (party members) to take a closer look at themselves ... their sins and good deeds, failing which, Umno will lose in 2004," he said of his book, Getek, which was on sale during the assembly.

Megat Junid, who was signing autographs at the booth where his books are sold, said Umno's dismal performance in last year's general election was not caused by the Opposition but by party members themselves.

"If all Umno members had voted for the Barisan Nasional candidates in all the constituencies, we would have won them all," the Umno Youth deputy permanent chairman contended. "But it was not the case. The outcome of the general election showed Umno members despised or getek with Umno."

Megat Junid explained that the word Getek was how the people of Perak described their extreme displeasure, boredom, hate and disgust.

"Those who hated Umno," the former Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister claimed, "comprised all quarters ... teachers, civil servants, police, soldiers and the mass media."

Singling out policemen and soldiers, he said in constituencies where there were many postal voters like in Wangsa Maju, Lembah Pantai, Titiwangsa and Bandar Tun Razak, the BN did not get as many votes as expected.

"If in the past postal voters were a blessing to us in that we could bank on them," he said, "but now, they (postal voters) are like poison to us."

At the pre-council meeting with Umno delegates on Tuesday, Dr Mahathir said the contents of Megat Junid's book reflected the situation in Umno and urged them to read it. In jest, the Prime Minister said he was not promoting the book because the author was now jobless.

It took Megat Junid two months to complete the book. Of the 10,000 copies printed, some 3,000 have been given out free to Umno frontliners, comprising mostly the committee members of the various divisions.

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