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Keadilan should learn from history in its bid to woo US support

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UNTIL today, it is still nauseating to read the story of Raja Abdullah seeking help from the British to secure the Perak throne in the late 19th century.

No doubt, it is now merely a chapter from the history books and should not be a matter which invokes emotions.

But history does repeat itself and lessons from the Raja Abdullah pact with the British in the 1874 Pangkor Treaty is indeed very pertinent.

Raja Abdullah did become the Sultan only with the condition of accepting a British Resident in the form of J.W.W. Birch to act as an "adviser".

It was the beginning of British colonialism in Malaya and within a short period of time, Raja Abdullah discovered that he was a Sultan only in name but the land he treaded on was no more his.

Then came the rebellion led by Maharaja Lela which is today described as the first seed of Malay nationalism.

It was quelled by the might of the British military prowess and since then it remained to be colonised until independence in 1957.

If Raja Abdullah gave the silver state to the British on a silver platter due to his eagerness to become Sultan, his royal brethren, from Perak and other states, were prepared to agree to the Malayan Union in 1946 purely to remain as Rulers in their respective states.

The point is that, the Malays should by now realise, securing political power with the assistance of external forces would only result in a situation of menang jadi arang, kalah jadi abu (a Malay saying which means every which way but lose).

By the same token, it is almost quite sad to hear that Parti Keadilan Nasional Youth chief Ezam Mohd Noor "proudly" claiming that he and a few other supporters of sacked Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim going abroad to run down the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

If he claims that such action is his right, his admission that the campaign also involved efforts to get businessmen in the United States not to invest in Malaysia is somewhat too much.

No doubt, Ezam and his supporters could argue that criticising Dr Mahathir did not mean they are against Malaysia.

However, to lobby foreign businessmen especially the US, from investing in Malaysia tantamounts to sabotaging the country.

It is interesting that the latest edition of Pas official newsletter Harakah, in its English section editorial reminded leaders in the opposition front, especially Keadilan, to be cautious with the US presidential candidate Al Gore.

"Our leaders in the Barisan Alternatif, especially Keadilan, beware! Al Gore, despite his condemnation of the verdict on Anwar Ibrahim, will not come to our help to get Anwar Ibrahim released until Anwar is ready to sell his Muslim dignity," the editorial said.

In short, if Ezam and those who are seeking foreign support in the cause for Anwar are not "comfortable" with the Malay history, they could use the history of Islam and the Middle-East to find some perspective in their struggle.

Until today, numerous Arab Muslim leaders dare not make a clear stand nor oppose the US policies which support Israel and Zionism because they are indebted to the Americans in helping them secure their rule.

The Harakah editorial, safe to be said as a Pas stand, is obviously

reminding Keadilan and Ezam of this.

They will definitely be politically naive that these foreign powers are pursuing their cause with altruism and the goodness of their hearts and concern for humanity.

The Harakah editorial pointed out both presidential candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore repeatedly made statements that held the Palestinians responsible for on-going Palestinian-Israeli conflicts.

What the Harakah had raised is not something that had not been said before.

But at the same time, Pas must also accept that Ezam is merely taking up what one of its party leaders had, in the not too-distant-past said that it was all right to even work with the satan when it comes to fighting Barisan Nasional.

However, looking at the way things have been evolving, it is pointless to remark on all these.

After all, Ezam and those conducting these campaigns abroad are definitely Malays "who had made it" in life as they have the means and contacts to conduct these smear campaigns so extensively.

Why should any other Malay question their efforts for they belonged to the "elite Malays" who are educated abroad, politically-savvy and know the way international politics operates.

Somehow or other, there is something that bugs the mind especially in their moves to get the foreigners to impose economic pressure on the Malaysian Government.

No doubt it is different than the military pressure imposed by the British on Perak in the 19th century.

However, as it is generally accepted, present day expansion is no more through military might but through economics.

As such why should anyone doubt that the end results will be the same as in the case of Raja Abdullah.

Surely those fighting for the Anwar cause should take heed that whoever they get to take over the Malaysian "throne" will not be treated any differently by the Americans than what the British did to Raja Abdullah.

For, he who fights for the Malaysian "throne" with the help of the foreigners, does have a good chance of securing it.

However, as he puts on the crown, he must not forget the leash. They come in a package.

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