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Suqiu, enough is enough

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THE continued attempts by the group called Suqiu (Malaysian Chinese Organisation Elections Appeals Committee) to act as a pressure group purportedly representing the Chinese community long after the general election is over is beginning to get tiresome, to say the least.

Indisputably the Chinese community played a significant role in helping the Barisan Nasional return to power in the face of a split in Malay voters.

However, the show of Chinese support for the BN should not be used as a tool to gain leverage, and to make undue demands of the Malays, in particular Umno as the senior partner of the BN coalition, and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Simple analysis of the voting trend of the Chinese in the last general election will show that they chose to support the BN not because the community wanted to demand a larger share of the pie, but rather in the larger interest of continued peace, harmony and prosperity which the nation has enjoyed.

If Suqiu attempts to use the Chinese support for the BN as a contrivance to put pressure and make all kinds of demands on the Government, it may well become "counter-productive" to the very reasons why the Chinese chose to stand behind the BN.

As I see it, Suqiu's gambit to use Chinese support as leverage may be construed by the Malays as an attempt to hold Umno to ransom and lead to the prevailing peace, harmony, goodwill being threatened instead of preserved.

Perhaps Suqiu in its pursuit for whatever is on its "wish-list", does not realise that it is gambling with the fate of the Chinese and the nation rather than championing it.

Much is at stake here.

Indeed, the slightest miscalculation on its part may destroy what has been carefully nurtured and treasured by the peace-loving people of the country over the past 31 years after the tragedy of the May 13 racial riots of 1969.

As a senior citizen, I have witnessed the horror, loss of innocent lives and sheer waste of past achievements arising from the incident. And I believe that I speak for all peace-loving Malaysians when I say that no one is desirous of seeing the country go through another round of all that avoidable and unnecessary suffering of the May 13 incident.

It took us years and years to instil muhibbah (goodwill) among the people.

Concerted efforts have been done to lead us to what we are today. Do we treasure or destroy it?

I would caution Suqiu, in the pursuit of its aspirations, to act cautiously and not put the Chinese in a situation by stirring up racial sensitivities, which will inevitably rock the stability of this nation.

It should also be remembered that Chinese support for the Barisan Nasional does not wholly equate to a vote for Umno, as the Chinese community is well represented in the BN by political parties such as the MCA, Gerakan, SAPP, SUPP and LDP throughout the country.

Speaking of which, I do not understand why Suqiu, which is a non-political entity, should try to claim credit for Chinese support for the BN, and adopt such a political posture.

The majority of us (the men in the street) will have to question the actual motive of this group.

If at all anyone should be credited for mustering Chinese support for BN to be returned to power, due credit should go to the Chinese-based parties within the coalition.

A salient point to note is that Dr Mahathir has already advised Muslims in the country to prove to non-Muslims that Islam is not an isolationist religion but one which takes into account the well-being of others.

He has also urged Muslims to show that they are sensitive to problems faced by non-Muslims in this country and are caring too.

On a similar note, surely this so-called Suqiu group should do likewise.

Our economy has just recovered, but we are not out of the woods yet.

Therefore the less trouble coming from all sectors/races will help to contribute towards the stability of the nation.

I appeal to everyone to do their part. Truly, for the sake of peace, goodwill and the welfare of future generations of Malaysian Chinese, Suqiu should just leave matters of politics to the politicians.

To Suqiu, I say enough is enough. Otherwise the situation in the country can become confused and deteriorate further to a stage beyond the control of anyone and then regret will be too late.

As peace-loving Malaysians, we do not want this to happen.

Remember the Chinese proverb: "When the tide appears, the boat will float naturally".