

12 JAN 2000

Rais-Umno

UNDERSTAND PARTY CONSTITUTION, RAIS TELLS UMNO MEMBERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- Umno members need to understand well Article 3 of the Umno Constitution which deals with the origins and aims of the party, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datk Dr Rais Yatim said today.

"Article 3 details what Umno and its struggle are and what needs to be done by every member," he said.

The article also explains the Malay agenda under the constitution and the meanings of unity, loyalty and service, he told reporters.

He was commenting on Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call yesterday for all Umno members to return to the party's original struggle without attaching importance to individuals.

Dr Rais, who is adviser to the Jelebu Umno division, said Dr Mahathir's views must be understood by both veteran and younger members of the party.

He said many young members did not appreciate the "unity, loyalty and service" slogan and did not understand well the party's actual struggle.

"Most youths when asked why they joined Umno could only smile but not provide an answer. The is because they are shy of answering. They probably don't remember the (party's) orginal rules and struggle anymore," he said.

Dr Rais said he was happy that Umno members were being asked to return to the party's core struggle.

"The important thing is to serve. If Umno members can provide excellent service, there will automatically be unity and loyalty. But if they can't provide service to the people, unity and loyalty may be missing," he said.

Therefore, he said, veteran Umno members who truly understood the party's original struggle should guide Umno Youth and Wanita members.

--BERNAMA

nz sk