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Pas demands clearly arrogant, says member

A GOVERNMENT backbencher accused Pas of being arrogant for imposing pre-conditions for the Malay unity talks with Umno and demanding that Umno submit to them.

Datuk Mohamad Aziz (BN-Sri Gading) stood up to make these remarks when Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor was debating the motion of thanks to the Royal Address.

He had asked for clarification from Fadzil who was explaining the reasons for Pas imposing the pre-conditions.

Mohamad Aziz also countered Fadzil's remarks that it was Umno who initiated the call to discuss issues affecting the Malays.

He said the views for the Malay-based parties to meet and discuss Malay unity had come from Malay intellectuals. He said Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad welcomed the idea.

"Dr Mahathir then invited Pas and Parti Keadilan Nasional to sit together and try to rectify any problems faced by the Malays."

Fadzil, who is Opposition leader, said Pas was not arrogant but was only asking for what was rightfully due to it.

Debating the motion earlier, he described Pas' pre-conditions as "humble" and "simple" and had questioned Umno's sincerity in having the talks.

"We are only demanding what is rightfully ours. If Umno cannot even fulfil these humble demands, I don't see how they can achieve something that is much more important than this.

"We are neither asking for a favour nor sympathy."

Fadzil blamed the media for hitting out at Pas by saying that the party was not sincere when they imposed the pre-conditions for the talks.

"They should instead ask the Umno leadership to submit to our demands," he said.

Datuk Mahadzir Mohd Khir (BN-Sungai Petani) said if the party was sincere as it claimed to be, it should not set pre-conditions.

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